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U.S. Said To Guarantee Israeli Withdrawal

PM1509134993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: United States Pledged To Guarantee Israel's Withdrawal to 1967 Borders"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—High-level diplomatic sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT pledges made by the United States to guarantee Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied in 1967. The sources emphasized that the U.S. Administration and some European states have conveyed information in this connection to several Arab capitals, first and foremost Cairo, and they expressed their conviction that Israel will sooner or later withdraw from all the territories it occupied in 1967 and return to the prewar international borders that were determined in accordance with the UN partition resolution of 1947. The sources indicated that the Security Council resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict issued after the 1967 war—that is, Resolutions 242 and 338, in addition to Resolution 425 on the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon—will find their way to implementation. The sources expressed their confidence that this will include withdrawal from all the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian territories occupied by Israel. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Peace Deal, Problems Within PLO

LD1509153393 London BBC Television Network in English 2130 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by correspondent Peter Snow in Washington on 14 Sep; from the "Newsnight" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer James Cox] The smooth course of present diplomacy can't alter the certainty that problems lie ahead. Today there was more violence on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the ferocious opposition to the deal from some radical Palestinian and Islamic groups has raised concern for the personal security of Yasir 'Arafat. However, in an interview with Peter Snow, Mr. 'Arafat has shrugged all that off. He compared his situation to that of the Algerians and De Gaulle, or Mandela and De Klerk. He was, he said, making the peace of the brave.

['Arafat] I am not looking for myself; I am looking for my cause. How many times I have faced arrest. You remember Sharon had declared that, in Beirut, during the siege of Beirut that he had attempted, he tried about 13 times, strafing by the airplanes, you remember? Strafing by the airplanes. And you remember the air raids on my residence in Beirut, in Tunisia, are you joking beside this?

[Snow] So you've escaped before, you'll escape again?

['Arafat] It's not a matter of escape. I am a strong believer in God, and the moment it will come, nobody can stop it.

[Snow] When you shook Mr. Rabin's hand, it was clearly your idea and not his.

['Arafat] He hesitated a little bit. But I insisted, and I continued stretching my hand to him.

[Snow] Is this relationship, this new relationship you are trying to bring with Israel, is it friendship, or is it strictly business, just business?

['Arafat] You see, for your information we the Muslims used to call the Jews our cousins, do you know that? We never called them Jews; [we used to call them] one of our cousins. You know it is a part of our religion, Abraham, Isaac, and Isma'il. We are cousins, and for this we used to call them. They are our cousins. And we live all the centuries together, all the centuries. I still [remember] in my boyhood, my neighbors were Jews, there were no problems. And if you remember when they escaped from the [Nazis] operation, they came to us, and we opened our doors for them.

[Snow] Now if the Palestinian people are as divided, as split about this peace plan, as your own Executive Committee, then you face a lot of opposition.

['Arafat] What is wrong, 3 from 18, what is wrong? Rabin has only 16 from 18, in his cabinet. I am 3 against 15, what is wrong?

[Snow] But you didn't get 15 votes for you, did you?

['Arafat] Yes, I got it.

[Snow] I thought you got 9 votes.

['Arafat] Who told you?

[Snow] Forgive me, that was what I saw reported on the wires.

['Arafat] No, no.

[Snow] You got 15 out of 18?

['Arafat] Yes, there are two votes, one concerning the recognition and one concerning the agreement itself. The agreement itself it had passed 15 against 3.

[Snow] OK, but you nevertheless do have people who reject it. You do have people who fundamentally reject it.

['Arafat] I am not leading sheep. I am leading freedom fighters, and I am proud that I am facing opposition. We have to remember what will [word indistinct].

[Snow] What do you want the international community, countries like America, Britain, France, and Europe to do to help this process forward?

['Arafat] Look, this is a very important test, and it must succeed. We have to work hard to [live together]

smoothly, successfully, but how? Alone? I cannot do miracles. Then we have to fail. We are in need of their support. And all of us, by all means.

[Snow] What level matters most? What level is security, money?

['Arafat] Look, all our infrastructure had been destroyed. We are facing starvation in Gaza. We have the security forces, the police forces, our infrastructure for education, for health, for social affairs, for economy. We have a lot.

[Snow] Do you recognize you may have to suppress quite a lot of people who don't like what's happening, that there may be resistance?

['Arafat] No, I am not saying so. I am not saying so. We are democratic. We are proud that we have a democratic field. We have opposition, and we have to respect their point of view. But they will follow the decision of the majority.

[Snow] Now looking in the longer term, do you recognize that if Mr. Rabin has his way, Jerusalem, as he puts it, will never be the capital of a Palestinian state?

['Arafat] He said Jerusalem, not unified Jerusalem. Yes.

[Snow] He said Jerusalem.

['Arafat] He's a politician. He knows exactly what he is saying.

[Snow] So you say that Jerusalem can still be the capital of Israel as long as part of it is capital of the Palestinian state?

['Arafat] We have, even the U.S. Administration is not recognizing what the Israeli's have declared. And we have to remember that what is Bush initiative, land for peace, implementation of [UN Resolutions] 242 and 338, which means withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arabic territories, which had been required since '67, including Jerusalem.

[Snow] The Israeli's will never pull back from Jerusalem, they never will, will they. Do you believe they ever will?

['Arafat] I think if there is a will there is a way.

[Snow] But there isn't a will on their side.

['Arafat] Who knows. Who knows? Some weeks ago, nobody was imagining that we will find a solution, and this agreement, not to forget that the Berlin Wall has fallen.

[Snow] Chairman 'Arafat, thank you very much.

Says Funding Crucial To Agreement

TA1509201593 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Sep 93 p 2

[Report from Washington by Dan Avidan]

[Excerpt] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday told DAVAR that during the conversation he held at the White House on 13 September with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the two men reached an understanding to coordinate the continuation of the political negotiations in order to implement the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, which was signed that day in Washington. Following their conversation, Foreign Minister Peres met on the same day with two members of the PLO Executive Committee, Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, as well as with Ahmad Abu-al-'Ala' in Washington in order to discuss ways to set up five committees to handle the rapid implementation of various aspects of the Gaza- Jericho First agreement.

'Arafat said that he attached great importance to the facilitation of the process of implementing the agreement because demonstrating tangible achievements to the residents of the territories would increase support for the agreement and weaken the opposition. "We do not have much time. The withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho will begin in two months, and the Palestinian authority will be given responsibility for almost all fields," 'Arafat said in a meeting with American Jewish supporters of the "Peace Now" movement, in which the DAVAR correspondent also participated.

The PLO chairman explained the recent political developments and urged his interlocutors to persuade the United States to extend aid to the residents of the territories in order to ensure the successful implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First plan. "I do not want to be like Gorbachev who launched the policy of perestroyka but lacked the necessary financial means and had to leave the stage," 'Arafat said. He cautioned that if the United States and the international community failed to send funds to finance infrastructure projects in the territories, and especially in the Gaza Strip, it was doubtful if the agreement could be implemented.

'Arafat said that he had asked the World Bank to extend urgent economic aid to the territories, noting that he had told World Bank officials in Washington that he would agree that any aid delivered to the territories would have to be coordinated with the Israeli Government and delivered through it. He spoke at length about the difficult economic and social conditions in the Gaza Strip and said that if this area was not economically rehabilitated it would continue to serve as a breeding ground for fanatical Islamic groups that receive funding from the Gulf states, Iran, and Libya.

As for the agreement itself, 'Arafat said that it was a compromise between the PLO and Israeli positions. At the beginning of the political process, each side tried to achieve far more extensive demands. However, eventually they reached a compromise because both parties desired a peaceful arrangement. If the goodwill of both parties continued and the agreement was implemented, we could make progress toward peace, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat explained that the Palestinian refugees' right of return to their homes inside Israel's 1948 borders would not be realized, but the refugees would be given the choice of returning to their homes or receiving compensation according to UN Resolution 194 from 1947. In reply to a question, 'Arafat said that Palestinian professionals would only arrive in the territories to help establish the autonomy institutions with the permission of the Israeli Government. He pointed out that the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho would first set up an appointed body composed of PLO members and representatives of the territories. This body would manage the local residents' affairs.

'Arafat stressed the need for a strong link between the West Bank and Gaza during the initial stages of the agreement's implementation. He warned that if the agreement failed, total chaos would ensue in the area. Therefore, both parties had no alternative but to implement it. "This is not the Camp David accords nor an agreement on the Golan Heights. This is an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians whose dispute is at the heart of the Arab- Israeli conflict. The Golan Heights is a minor matter compared with the larger Palestinian issue," 'Arafat said.

The PLO chairman expressed regret over the recent terrorist attacks in the territories and claimed that the violent opposition to the agreement would decrease in direct proportion to the agreement's success. 'Arafat warned of more terrorist attacks by the opponents of the agreement and asserted that Israel had promised to release some of the prisoners in the territories to create a more relaxed atmosphere that would strengthen the moderate elements in the population. He also called on Israel to bring back deportees, cancel various decrees by the military government, and lift the closure on East Jerusalem, as confidence building measures toward the Palestinian residents. 'Arafat claimed that he could not face up to Palestinian public opinion, which was demanding goodwill gestures from Israel in order to restore calm to the territories. 'Arafat mocked the 400 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees and called them "CNN [Cable News Network] heroes. That is all they are." [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Official Welcome in Tunis

LD1509175693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] The brother president of the State of Palestine, Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], arrived in Tunis this afternoon from Washington after participating in the ceremony where the historic agreement between the [Palestine Liberation] Organization and Israel on the declaration of principles on autonomy was signed.

Brother President Abu-Ammar was given an official reception at Tunis Airport, where he reviewed the honor guard with Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed al-Karoui, who headed the Tunisian Government members and members of the Democratic Constitutional Rally, Arab, and foreign diplomats in Tunis. A large number of Palestinian civilians in Tunis, PLO leadership members, and Palestinian students wearing the kefiyeh and waving the Palestinian flag also went out to meet him.

Brother President Abu-Ammar made a statement at the airport in which he confirmed that signing the agreement on the declaration of principles in Washington between the Organization and Israel was a fundamental and important step on the right path. It was the beginnning of peace.

He expressed hope that this peace will spread to all in the Arab region, on all Arab fronts, through comprehensive and lasting peace.

Brother President Abu-Ammar added: We began with Palestine; yesterday was Jordan, and after that, God willing, it will be Syria and Lebanon, so that we can open a new page in the region through which we can say that there is comprehensive and total peace in the Arab region, for the sake of our future generations and our people and so that we can participate as one Arab nation in this new world order.

Secret Agreement on Jericho-Gaza Corridor Reported

NC1609070393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] 'Abdallah 'Abdallah, the PLO representative in Athens, has announced that a land corridor will link Jericho and the Gaza Strip in accordance with a secret agreement between Israel and the PLO.

Nasir al-Qudwah, the PLO representative at the United Nations, did not rule out a new visit by Yasir 'Arafat to New York in the last week of September in order to address the UN General Assembly. The first speakers to address the session, due to begin 27 September, will be the U.S. President and the Israeli foreign minister.

Editorial: Israeli Sincerity 'Real Test' of Accord

TA1509123793 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Sep 93 p 11

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-Israeli Agreement—the Event and the Expectations"]

[Text] The signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement yesterday was a historic event both in and of itself and in terms of the future impact on the parties in whose name it was signed—the Palestinians and the Israelis—and on the Arab region in general.

The agreement was achieved following protracted efforts and many international peace proposals over the five decades of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Hence, the agreement definitely deserves the great media fanfare which the U.S. Administration generated around it.

Naturally, it will not be easy to erase a full century of conflict and hate overnight, especially because the agreement has still to be implemented on the ground and still has to be followed by wider steps toward achieving the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state over all the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

No one has said that this agreement is the end of the road. On the contrary, in the view of both the PLO and Israel, it represents a preparatory stage in which Palestinian self-rule will be established and extended later to the rest of the West Bank. At the beginning of the third year of the interim settlement, negotiations are to be held on a final solution. Pending issues such as independence, Jerusalem, and settlements, as well as the Palestinian refugee problem, will be raised in those negotiations.

Good and serious intentions and sincerity by the Israeli side will be the real test of the current agreement in particular and of Palestinian-Israeli relations in general. If it is proven to the Palestinian people that implementation of the interim agreement and the subsequent arrangements for a final settlement are in line with Palestinian and Arab aspirations and hopes, the peace process will be reinforced and consolidated to the benefit of the region's future generations, resulting in prosperity and progress in all fields and transforming the Middle East into an oasis of stability and wealth. The people of this region have had enough tragedies, disasters, and wars during this century. It is not in the interest of anyone in the world for this to continue.

Opposition Figures Cited on PLO-Israel Accord

PM1609100193

[Editorial Report] London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic on 14 September publishes a report by Salwa al-Ustuwani datelined Damascus and Amman on (undated) statements concerning the PLO-Israeli agreement by a number of Palestinian figures from various Palestinian organizations.

Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, is reported as saying: "First of all, the agreement lacks legitimacy. And we do not believe that Yasir 'Arafat represents this legitimacy with regard to the Palestinian people; that legitimacy is either revolutionary or democratic. Revolutionary legitimacy is the PLO when it used to represent the Palestinian factions. But we see now that 90 percent of the factions have left the PLO, with the exception of Fatah, which itself is divided. Thus 'Arafat cannot claim that he represents revolutionary legitimacy. As for the democratic legitimacy, the Palestinian people's opinion of the agreement was not sought. There are 7 million Palestinians. Four million of them are in the diaspora. The opinion of 3 million inside the occupied territories was not sought." Jibril also says that "if the Palestinian people inside and outside express their approval through a referendum, we will have another view." Jibril says: "This agreement ignores our people's will, and our people will not agree to it."

He added: "I did not see in the agreement the phrase 'occupied territories,' from which the occupation should be removed; or the term disputed territories regarding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In return for administrative rule over 400 square km, they offered recognition of Israel."

As for the agreement's impact on the Palestinian issue, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, Jibril says that the agreement will "facilitate the Jews' arrival in the settlements after giving them a feeling of security, especially as 'Arafat has stopped the intifadah. And when the intifadah has stopped, the Israelis will speak a different language."

Jibril says: "We will enlighten the people, clarify the picture, and reveal the dangers of the agreement. We of the 10 factions [opposed to the peace talks with Israel] have drawn up the features of a plan for the confrontation process, and we will soon hold a national conference and national and popular conferences to be attended by Arabs to condemn this agreement. We will continue the confrontation in the occupied territories, and no one can protect 'Arafat from a Palestinian man's or woman's knife or gun, and 'Arafat's end will be in the occupied territories."

He also stressed that his front is against the negotiations in the first place "because the Palestinians have no balances of power that can achieve for them anything tangible at this stage."

Abu-Khalid al-'Imlah, assistant secretary of the Central Committee of Fatah-the Uprising led by Abu-Musa (Sa'id Musa Muraghat), is reported as saying that "this agreement is against Palestine, not in its favor. It is the outcome of an international, regional, and Arab situation and a concessionist Palestine line. We see it as a prelude to a Zionist alliance with a capitulationist Palestinian party. It ignores the rights of 5 million Palestinians." He called for a referendum, saying that the agreement "may succeed in the short term, but they will not succeed in making the Palestinian people submit to this plan, which is designed to liquidate the Palestinian issue."

Fahd Sulayman, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) Political Bureau and a major aide of Nayif Hawatimah, says: "The agreement fully reflects the essence of the Israeli ideas and proposals concerning administrative self-rule." He adds: "We are not against the negotiations or the negotiation principle. We were the first to demand this within the PLO framework in 1974. So we are not against the negotiations; we are against this agreement. It is very negative because it inspires a state of deep division and the majority have expressed their oppositionist stance."

On mobilizing opposition to the agreement, Sulayman is reported as saying: "The opposition begins with a broad political alliance framework that includes all forces, factions, organizations, and political parties inside and

outside the homeland. It is primarily a political opposition. And an armed struggle, on the grounds that it is a form of struggle within the framework of the intifadah, which will be stepped up in the stage ahead."

Dawud al-Talhami, member of the DFLP Political Bureau and the front's official spokesman, says that "the formula on which the Israelis are relying is an Israeli-Palestinian confederation from a position of strength in relation to Israel and a position of weakness in relation to the Palestinian side. This is what Peres and Rabin announced. The economic and security clauses of the agreement are unclear. And it has become clear that an independent state in the sense we were looking for and understand—namely, a state that severs its links with the occupation—is not included in this solution. So the present solution will not succeed, and the signing is not the end of the road."

Muhammad Nazzal, representative of Hamas in Jordan, says: "Hamas stresses its categorical rejection of the agreement and anything that may result from signing it." He stressed that "the signing is binding only on those who signed. It is in no way binding on our Palestinian people or movement."

He emphasizes Hamas's principled opposition to the negotiations, criticizing the agreement for completely dropping the Jerusalem issue, threatening the Palestinian people's national and geographical unity, and abolishing the right of return.

He says that "Hamas has renewed its call to the opposition Palestinian factions to agree to hold Palestinian national conferences to form a new Palestinian leadership to replace the present PLO leadership."

Taysir Khalid, member of the PLO Executive Committee and member of the DFLP Political Bureau, Nayif Hawatimah's wing, says: "It is not an agreement. It is a separate solution along the lines of the Camp David accords." He warned that "it carries numerous dangers, because it divides the arrangements of the transitional phase. It also divides the unity of geographical jurisdiction by dividing the areas occupied in 1967. The agreement deals with them at three levels, putting the areas in occupied Palestine under Israeli sovereignty and transforming them into Israeli protectorates. Besides, the agreement has hit Arab coordination."

Dr. Taysir 'Aruru, member of the Palestinian People's Party Political Bureau and member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), says: "The agreement contains numerous shortcomings and unclear phrases which can be interpreted in various ways. However, it can in general be rated positively because it contains stipulations on a group of basic issues in a manner that serves the development of the future Palestinian struggle to achieve the right to self-determination. Besides, the agreement stipulates that the right of general jurisdiction (geographically and nationally) over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip belongs to the Palestine council to be elected nine months after the signing of the agreement."

Taysir Qubba'ah, member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Political Bureau and deputy speaker of the PNC, says: "The agreement conflicts with Articles 8 and 48 of the Geneva Convention, as these stipulate openly that any agreement concerning the inhabitants of occupied territories or their representatives inside or outside is considered null and void and cannot be implemented. Besides, this agreement has no authority in international legitimacy."

Khalid Musmar, member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council and official in charge of Palestinian information in Jordan, says: "The agreement is an important step down the road to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. It is the first step of its kind in which the agreement emphasizes territorial integrity and the Palestinian people's inalienable rights as stipulated in PNC resolutions."

He says: "Jerusalem is to us—we the Palestinian people and the PLO, the leader of this people—a central issue which cannot be dispensed with in any way, because Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian homeland and the heart of the Arab nation and the foundation of the Islamic faith. Hence, all efforts should be pooled to bolster this step (the agreement) in order to achieve our aim of establishing our indepenent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital."

Musmar says that "the Palestinian opposition is entitled to express concern over the agreement, to discuss it, and express its opinion of it. But it is not entitled to say it is treason, capitulation, or concession. It should work in the light of conflicting interpretations to close the ranks. It should work for national unity for the sake of building our independent state."

Panel Criticizes 'Illegitimate' Agreement

JN1509125393

[Editorial Report] Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 14 September carries on pages 12, 13, and 18 a 7,000-word transcipt of a panel discussion with representatives of Palestinian factions opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. Date of the panel discussion, which is hosted by the paper, is not given. Those taking part are Taysir Qubba'ah, deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council and member of the political bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Saji Salamah, member of the political bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine; Muhammad Nazzal, representative of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Jordan; and Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, member of the political bureau of the Palestinian People's Party. The panel discussion is moderated by Rashid Hasan and Lamis al-Barghuthi.

Asked why the Palestinian opposition over the past two years had not not been able to obstruct the negotiations or improve their terms, Taysir Qubba'ah says that prior to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, the opposition was divided into opposition to the principle of negotiations

with Israel and opposition to the way the negotiations were conducted. This distinction, Qubba'ah explains, does not exist anymore because "all factions are now agreed to opposing the agreement that was signed by the leadership dominating the PLO in isolation from all legitimate institutions and all leaders of the Palestinian revolution." He says that this agreement, which also took place in isolation from other Arab parties to the peace process and international legitimacy, is "illegitimate" on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. As for why the opposition has failed to obstruct the negotiations, Qubba'ah says that there had been doubts among the opposition that the negotiations in Washington would lead to an "independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

Answering the same question, Saji Salamah says that the agreement was negotiated by an "isolated" Palestinian team and that he believes that the "overwhelming majority of the Palestinian people" oppose the agreement. He adds that the battle for "national independence" will continue.

Asked about the possible economic prosperity in the occupied territories after the agreement is signed, Qubba'ah says: "The current bribery attempt, which is aimed to convince people that money will flow into the self-rule region, is absolutely baseless." To support his argument, he says that Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin were promised massive financial support, but got only "crumbs."

Regarding the Palestinian opposition, Nazzal says differences of opinion usually exist in every revolution. However, he says, there "should be a common denominator." He adds that those opposing the agreement and the Madrid framework "constitute an overwhelming majority" and that the opposition has failed to abort the settlement because such a move needs democracy within the PLO, which is "undemocratic," because the PLO chairman is maneuvering and seeking the help of others against his legitimate institutions and because the opposition members are prevented from leaving the occupied territories for Jordan.

Speaking about the opposition and the agreement, 'Aruri says that Palestinians should deal with this issue objectively because extreme views on either side will not serve the Palestinian cause. He says that the agreement "contains negative as well as positive points" and that the major shortcoming of the agreement is the settlement issue.

Asked if the agreement can be toppled peacefully, Taysir Qubba'ah calls for "avoiding violence and use of weapons among Palestinians although Faysal al-Husayni is publicly threatening to resort to violence...against the opposition."

Commenting on the PLO-Israel agreement, Muhammad Nazzal says: "The next phase is extremely serious. It requires that all Palestinian forces rise to the level of responsibility. As for the PLO, I think it is practically disintegrating, that is, the national Palestinian charter will be canceled and the PLO will turn into a political party."

Asked about Hamas' attitude toward peaceful opposition, Nazzal says: "The Hamas Movement has clearly announced its position. Regarding physical liquidations and armed confrontation, Hamas objects to them in part and parcel because it is strategically convinced that all without exception will be the losers in any armed confrontation among the Palestinians. Accordingly, we must avoid such confrontation. If anyone is held responsible for this, it is the Palestinian leadership that is holding sway over the PLO because it adopted a plan that does not enjoy uninamity or at least semiunanimity, and because it is the side that is beating the drums of war through provocative statements.

"As for Hamas, it will pursue the policy of armed struggle against the Zionist enemy. The continuation of this struggle, however, hinges on the future circumstances and the way to deal with the next stage. Developments are linked to the position of the leadership dominating the PLO on two important issues: Will this leadership allow the opposition forces to express their opinion in a democratic manner? Will this leadership allow armed struggle against the Zionist enemy to continue, or it will persecute those who resisit occupation?"

Algeria

Moroccan Mediation in 'Crisis' With Libya Denied

LD1509143093 Rabat MAP in English 1346 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Algiers, Sep. 15 (MAP)—The spokesman of the Algerian Foreign Ministry Bensalah denied Monday [13 September] the existence of any Moroccan mediation in the Libyan-Algerian crisis, said Algerian 'HORIZONS' daily Wednesday. Algerian 'EL WATAN' daily had reported few days ago that Algeria has refused a mediation offer by Morocco in the Algerian-Libyan dispute. Algeria accuses Libya of interfering in its domestic affairs. The spokesman added that concerning the conflict south west its frontiers, Algeria supports the UN peace plan as a solution.

Higher Security Council Holds Meeting 15 Sep

LD1509130993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] The Higher Security Council held a meeting at the presidency of the republic today. The meeting, that was announced in the latest statement by the Higher State Council, is considered the first of its kind since the meeting following the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid in January 1992.

In accordance with Article 162 of the Constitution, the Higher Security Council gives its views to the president of the republic in all matters related to security and covering fields of national and international activity, particularly those concerning the definition of aims in the state security field and the assessment of general means and conditions, in order to use them, as well as the arrangements of general coordination in order to choose the means and resources in this domain.

The Higher Security Council, which is chaired by the president of the republic, is composed of the speaker of the National People's Assembly, the prime minister, the defense minister, the foreign minister, the interior minister, the justice minister, the economy minister, and the chief of staff of the National People's Army.

Council To Meet Whenever Necessary

LD1509193693 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Excerpt] As expected, the Higher Security Council met today at the Presidency building. The Council assessed the security situation, and in view of present circumstances, the Higher Security Council is called on to meet whenever the situation demands it. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives on Visit, Meets With Mubarak

Explains Non-Mention of Egypt

NC1609073393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit, during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak.

He was received by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

'Arafat replied to a question by our radio correspondent on why he failed to refer to Egypt's role in pushing the peace process in his speech at the ceremony held to celebrate the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. 'Arafat said: It was requested that the speech be very brief. He added that Egypt's role was not ignored and that they were governed by protocol in this connection.

'Arafat added that in all his meetings with the press he praised the Egyptian role. He added: This is the least I can do to show gratitude for the role President Husni Mubarak and the noble Egyptian people played and for the fraternal stance they adopted and the sincere efforts they made to guarantee success for this mission and this great task.

'Arafat said: I would like to say thank you to my brother struggler President Husni Mubarak and the good Egyptian people for all they did, both secretly and in public. He added that what happened was beyond his control.

The Palestinian president stated that he would meet today with President Mubarak and that he came to Egypt directly from the United States especially for that meeting to brief President Mubarak on what went on during his meeting with U.S. President Clinton and the U.S. Administration.

'Arafat said that he would hold consultations with President Mubarak on future plans to take further strides in this process, particularly in terms of implementation.

Confers With Mubarak in Alexandria

NC1609085793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the Ra's al-Tin palace in Alexandria today. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, attended the meeting on the Egyptian side, while Palestinian Ambassador Sa'id Kamal and Fatah Representative in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qidrah attended on the Palestinian side.

'Arafat, Musa Comment on Talks

NC1609130193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Alexandria, 16 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that Egypt's role in the peace process is too great to be ignored. The best evidence of this, he said, is that Egypt was the first state he visited on his return from the United States. He added: I held good, productive, and fraternal talks with President Husni Mubarak today.

'Arafat was answering a question on the general feeling in Egypt that he ignored Egypt's role in his speech at the White House.

In a statement before leaving al-Nuzhah International Airport in Alexandria en route to Cairo accompanied by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today, 'Arafat said he and President Mubarak discussed details relating to moves following the signing and the necessary efforts, made particularly with brothers in Egypt, to "continue along the road we started together."

'Arafat added: I would like to reveal a secret. The first person to approach Rabin with the Gaza-Jericho option was President Mubarak during his excellency's meeting with Rabin in Ismailia. During my last visit to Cairo, I noted that Egypt played many secret and public roles, which were shouldered by President Mubarak and brother officials in Egypt.

People here in Egypt have every right to reproach us, because reproach undoubtedly reflects their love for us. I know Egypt is bigger than all of this, 'Arafat said.

On his view of Egypt's role after the signing of the declaration of principles, 'Arafat said: Using the word role would be unfair to Egypt, which is our full partner in everything. Egypt is a full partner to what we have done and will do, he repeated.

Asked if the coming stage will need further effort to resolve the rest of the issue, 'Arafat said: Certainly, today I discussed with President Mubarak the need to embark immediately on developing the integrated plan the details of which will be publicized later. There are also things we must complete to train our cadres at the various levels.

'Arafat added: I am pleased to say that President Mubarak ordered today that our cadres be given the opportunity to train in the local government process here in Egypt. I appreciate this generous gesture by President Mubarak in addition to the training of the Palestinian police and security forces that started in Egypt a few weeks ago through the 'Ayn Jalut forces and countless other things.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat went on to say: I thank President Husni Mubarak on behalf of the Palestinian people and on behalf of every Palestinian man, woman, and child. I tell his excellency: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Asked about the Syrian stance on the agreement the PLO signed with Israel, 'Arafat said: My recent meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was extremely positive. I thank him for his strong position toward us.

On the date for implementing the agreement signed on Monday, 'Arafat said: Implementation will start one month after the signing.

The Palestinian president explained that the transfer of authority in Gaza and Jericho will start two months after the signing and that this process will continue and should take no more than four months. He said the stages of implementing autonomy in the other West Bank areas will also start during this period.

Asked about fears that the Palestinian police will be a tool for repressing the Palestinian people in lieu of the Israeli iron fist, 'Arafat asked: Will it be an iron fist? The Israelis will withdraw from Gaza and Jericho. Will the Palestinian people revolt against themselves? He stressed that the Palestinian police are part of the Palestinian people and at their service.

On the fate of the intifadah, 'Arafat said: If the occupation ends, the intifadah will end, too. He explained that the intifadah is against the occupation.

Asked if this means the intifadah will continue in the other parts of the occupied territories, 'Arafat said: I am confident that as soon as the national Palestinian authorities, whether the self-government authority or the national one, will start in Gaza and Jericho, constructive cooperation will begin on an infrastructure destroyed during 27 years of occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. This will need all the Palestinian people's resources to build a strong homeland and a solid infrastructure for our masses and sons.

Asked about the Arab role in financing the Palestinian government, 'Arafat said: We depend heavily on our brothers in the Arab countries to help us rebuild the infrastructure. I would like to refer here to the statement issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers. The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, was behind this statement. We are confident that King Fahd will continue to support the Palestinian people and Jerusalem, as he has repeatedly stressed the importance of Jerusalem.

On the arrangements that could be made in Gaza to ensure its resources, 'Arafat said: Like any national authority, we will have our various organizations, be it the water authority, ports, electricity, security, or the police.

Asked about his move to live on the West Bank, 'Arafat said: I hope this will happen in a very few weeks.

Asked if he had talks with the Syrian president after signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, 'Arafat said: I contacted President al-Asad and one of my colleagues will visit Syria soon to continue our contacts with our Syrian brothers.

Asked what he felt when he shook hands with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the White House, Yasir 'Arafat said: It was the peace of the bold. It is the same feeling the Algerians got when they shook hands with de Gaulle and Mandela when he shook hands with de Clerk.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said President Mubarak and 'Arafat discussed today the position on the coming peace process.

Musa stressed that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement will be followed by several steps and more meetings to be held by committees and some arrangements that will be made before the transfer of authority. He noted that the agreement will start to be implemented a month after the signing—13 October. He said specific steps will be taken in this respect.

Musa added: For example, there are the negotiations over the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. There is also the committee that will prepare for elections in the West Bank and Gaza. There are some arrangements on the return of the refugees, which will be coordinated with Egypt and Jordan, some issues on the new administration, and many other things.

Foreign Minister Musa said 'Arafat asked President Mubarak to continue Egypt's role, support, and contacts and to train Palestinian individuals in various activities.

Musa said the fields of such training would depend on what the Palestinians wanted. He explained that this requires coordination with the Palestinian authority and the Israelis and it should consider the needs of the West Bank and Gaza during the interim stage.

Musa said 'Arafat asked President Mubarak to continue his role and contacts for the sake of peace. 'Arafat also said he warmly appreciated the president and referred to future political coordination between Egypt and the PLO.

Asked about Syria's position on the peace moves, the foreign minister said: Syria is working within the framework of peace and has its own track. We are all interested in making progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. As 'Arafat has said, Syria did not oppose the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Musa explained that the talks, contacts, and coordination between Presidents Mubarak and al-Asad continue.

Asked whether the Arab boycott of Israel will be lifted soon, Musa said: Let us take one step at a time. He noted that many issues, not only the boycott, need to be discussed.

He said efforts are being made to advance the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the negotiations.

The foreign minister said: We will all remain behind the peace process until it succeeds.

Departs Cairo for Tunis

NC1609105093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Sep (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Tunis this afternoon following a visit to Egypt that lasted several hours.

In a predeparture statement, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said: I am pleased to meet President Mubarak after visiting Washington and signing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to express our thanks and gratitude for his personal role and for Egypt's efforts to guarantee the success of that agreement on every level.

'Arafat said he and President Mubarak discussed ways to maintain the Egyptian effort so that the agreement can become a reality. This requires doubling our efforts, 'Arafat noted, adding: We need the help of President Mubarak and Egypt to implement the agreement fully and as best we can so that we can establish the Palestinian national authority on our national soil in Gaza and Jericho first and establish the transitional authority in the remaining occupied territories in the West Bank.

On training Palestinian cadres in Egypt, 'Arafat noted that the first group has already arrived there from the occupied territories to train in police work. He said President Mubarak was generous enough to provide all the necessary training facilities for the Palestinians.

'Arafat pointed out that President Mubarak has given his permission to give the 'Ayn Jalut forces enough fine training to shoulder their role as a nucleus for the national security forces in the Gaza Strip. He added that the president also gave instructions to train Palestinian cadres in the local government process in Egypt.

'Arafat noted that he asked President Mubarak to provide the necessary Egyptian experts to help the Palestinians to implement the Palestinian-Israeli agreement well.

The Palestinian president said he hoped he would head for Gaza and Jericho in 10 weeks.

Asked about Libya and Sudan's stance on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, 'Arafat noted that he was not officially notified that these two states objected to the agreement. Only some media mentioned this, he remarked. He said Faruq Qaddumi, chairman of the PLO Political Department, has gone to Baghdad to put them in the picture and that attempts are under way to contact the Libyans and do the same for them.

As for the Yemeni stance, 'Arafat explained that he agreed with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, during his recent visit to Sanaa, to hold a dialogue with the Palestinian factions to let everybody share in the

process and historic responsibility of establishing national authority on liberated land. He noted that this is very important right now.

The Palestinian president said he hoped a meeting with the Palestinian factions would take place in early October.

'Arafat referred to the vast support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, particularly in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, where the masses voiced their support.

Reacting to the Iranian threat to assassinate him, 'Arafat remarked that this is not the first such threat.

Musa Returns From Washington, Comments on Peace

NC1509165793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1556 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo this afternoon from the United States after attending the ceremony for the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles agreement.

Musa said he will submit a report to President Husni Mubarak later today about the contacts he held in Washington. He will also convey to his excellency a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton extending his thanks and that of all the leaders and Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat for Egypt's role in advancing the peace process in the region and expressing the wish for the continuation of this role to solve the Libyan-Western crisis. The foreign minister said that the Arab League's seven-member committee will arrive in Cairo soon to discuss the Libyan-Western crisis.

Regarding the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles, Musa said that things are developing fast, especially after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda agreement. There is much hope for progress on the other Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks.

Musa said that he held intensive contacts in Washington on the peace process and future developments on the other negotiating tracks. He said that President Clinton and the foreign ministers who attended the ceremony have expressed appreciation for President Mubarak's role [words indistinct] the preparations for the mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel [words indistinct] the Palestinian people.

He said everyone appreciates this role [words indistinct] a quick settlement to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Musa pointed out that the [words indistinct] progress and [words indistinct] could include this track.

Hopes for Progress on Syrian Track

NC1509184893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo today from Washington after attending the ceremony for the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister said that during his contacts in Washington he found consensus among U.S. President Bill Clinton, the vice president, the secretary of state, and the ministers who attended the ceremony in appreciating President Mubarak's and Egypt's role and the great effort made by President Mubarak in preparing for the mutual recognition. Musa said he hopes efforts will result in a just settlement acceptable to all to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added that no sufficient progress has been made on the Syrian track and we hope that the fast tempo will include that track.

Regarding the Libyan crisis, Musa said that contacts are currently taking place in New York to discuss this crisis. It will also be discussed by the Arab seven-member committee, which will hold a meeting at the Arab League on Saturday.

Al-Baz Comments on Peace Agreement, Cooperation

NC1509144793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has described the signing of the declaration of principles on Gaza and Jericho between Israel and the PLO as a courageous and bold step that indicates the Palestinian people's great sense of awareness, national understanding of objectives, and determination to achieve these objectives.

In an interview with Cairo radio, al-Baz said: There is no agreement that can achieve all the aspirations and objectives of one party. One must compare the options open to him and choose the best. He said the Palestinian people have struggled and fought and launched a popular uprising lasting over 70 months and have the right to start the peace process.

The Egyptian official added: This step and the declaration of principles with its addenda, including one on speedy implementation and full withdrawal from Gaza and the Jericho area, form a step on the road. No Palestinian or anyone else has claimed it is a final agreement. It cannot harm the Palestinian people's rights. It will certainly help to improve these people's conditions, as it will put an end to the Israeli occupation of the Gaza and Jericho area, alleviate the occupation elsewhere on the West Bank, and remove the Israeli control of the Palestinian people's fate. No one can say

this is a step backward meaning the Palestinian people will remain shackled by the occupation and Israeli control until they achieve all their hopes and demands at once; this is impossible.

Al-Baz went on: We hope this step will be followed by others, because there is still a long way to go in two respects: The first is the implementation of the agreement, because that will not be rosy, and the second is holding negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories.

On the Palestinian differences and the possibility of things escalating in the occupied territories, al-Baz said: These differences will not affect the peace process much because most Palestinians, especially those inside the occupied territories, support this agreement; that is important. If the majority deal with this agreement and implement it realizing it will accrue some interest to them, no one can oppose the people. If there is opposition, then this is a healthy sign, because this is the democratic way. We cannot think of a unanimous stance on a specific issue except in rare cases, such as war, for example.

On contacts between Egypt and Jordan to discuss the arrangements for cooperation between Israel and the Palestinians, al-Baz said: It is too early to think about this. The important thing is that we are willing, and I believe Jordan is willing, to help the Syrian and Palestinian brothers in the areas we can help.

He stressed that the door will be open to discuss cooperation on wider levels to improve conditions in the region once real progress has been made on the Syrian track.

On Egypt's role in preparing the Palestinian cadres and police to undertake their duty, Dr. al-Baz said: The Palestinian police will not start from scratch. Palestinian cadres already exist and some trained in Egypt and Jordan. He said Egypt will not hesitate to help the Palestinians train the cadres for the police and other services so that they can exercise their duties.

Answering a question on the EC's allocation of $23 million for Gaza and Jericho, al-Baz said that this sum is very modest compared to the amount the operation really needs. Gaza-Jericho needs no less than $500 million in the first year and $100 million in each successive year. Institutions, schools, farms, and electric power must be restored, therefore, there is a need to allocate and collect a large sum. The EC could allocate a sum much greater than this one.

He said the Scandinavian countries alone are allocating close to $100 million. It is not reasonable that the EC is allocating only $23 million. This is an emergency amount to confront the basic needs in the first days. But this newborn Palestinian entity will be in need of a much larger sum. It is also in need of a Marshall Plan. The sisterly Arab countries will contribute toward that, as will the EC, the United States, and Japan, because it is in the interest of the countries of the world that the peace project in the Middle East succeed.

He clarified that Egypt will soon concentrate on helping to make progress in the Syrian track. We do not believe what some in Israel are claiming about no progress being made on the Syrian-Israeli track. He said that the progress made on the Palestinian track will help a great deal to achieve progress on the Syrian track. It improves the atmosphere and increases confidence between the Arabs and the Israelis.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz affirmed that Egypt will concentrate its efforts on helping to achieve progress on the Syrian track and finalize the remaining points so an agreement can be reached on the Lebanese track. In this way, progress will be made on all Arab fronts. Then, we can faithfully implement the agreement on the Palestinian front and help the Palestinian people reconstruct their institutions. Thus, a new stage will begin in the region and the peace challenge, in the broader sense of the word, will also begin.

On the effect of progress in the bilateral negotiations on the multilateral talks, al-Baz said the multilateral talks have made some progress as far as some subjects have been opened and discussion of the special concerns and needs of the parties has started. The last period was necessary to learn the stands of the various sides on the many points. Now, we enter the wider stage of reaching agreements on issues of economic and regional cooperation, as well as preserving the environment and disarmament.

He added that reducing and eliminating arms will take a long time because the Egyptian proposal on making the Middle East a region free of mass-destruction weapons will certainly be presented, as will the plan to empty the region of nuclear weapons. Israel must make its decision on this issue without stalling or hesitating. After that, the various pending issues of environment, economic cooperation, and other such topics will be discussed. These are issues that need at least two years.

Significance of PLO-Israeli Agreement Viewed

NC1509190693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Sep 93

['Atif 'Umar commentary: "The Credibility in the Implementation of the Declaration of Principles Between the Palestinian and the Israelis Provides a Decisive Answer to Those Who Doubt and are Suspicious of the Agreement"]

[Excerpt] The PLO, led by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has succeeded in achieving the first real victory in history toward the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. According to this Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Israel adheres for the first time to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognizes that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that a Palestinian people with a distinctive identity lives in part of their occupied territory. This recognition has been a dream of generations of the Palestinian people, especially after successive Israeli leaders have denied this existence and reality. Therefore, this achievement by Palestinian president

Yasir 'Arafat will remain recorded in history whether it is accepted or rejected by the opposers.

The radical change in Palestinian-Israeli relations has indeed begun. We do not think that any power can stop this change. This view gains support by the fact that public opinion polls held on the eve of the declaration of principles agreement among the Palestinians and the Israelis indicated that the great majority of the two peoples support the agreement. On the basis of this agreement, reconciliation will take place and the Palestinian people will regain part of their rights during an interim period after which negotiations will take place about the remaining rights. This agreement will restore Gaza and Jericho to the national sovereignty of the Palestinians. At the same time, the Israeli people in Israel itself and in the occupied territories will, for the first time, enjoy calm and a sense of stability.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has succeeded in utilizing the current circumstances and the sincere and continuous efforts made by several international parties to achieve permanent and stable peace and security in this part of the world. The Palestinian people's steadfastness and the success of the Palestinian intifadah in playing its role in the occupied territories were the real torch that showed the way to peace. Had it not been for the Palestinian people's steadfastness and sacrifices, the world would not have moved to resolve this long-term conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Furthermore, as President Mubarak noted in his recent meeting with the Armed Forces commanders and officers, the role played by Egypt in this event, with the admission of president 'Arafat himself, was effective and influential, particularly in the days that preceded the agreement on the declaration of principles that was signed Monday [13 September] evening. Egyptian diplomacy succeeded in removing some of the obstacles that faced the agreement and in bridging the gap in views between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

After the signing of the declaration of principles between the two countries, which placed the two sides before their historic responsibilities toward the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, we would like to emphasize that what follows the agreement between the two sides is much more important than the signing. Complete adherence to the provisions of the declaration and the timetable contained in it by the two sides is the basis that will determine the success or failure of this agreement. Furthermore, the Israeli and Palestinian leaders are called upon to reaffirm the positive steps and aspects of the declaration of principles and to move quickly to implement this declaration to provide a decisive answer to those who doubt or are suspicious of the peace process. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Interviewed on Terrorism, Economy

NC1609083493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that terrorism has come to Egypt from abroad and that there are forces that move and finance it. He added that the bad economic situation and the existence of slum areas are not responsible for the existence of terrorism because poverty exists in all countries and one deals with it not through terrorism but through work.

In an interview with Mahfuz al-Ansari, chief editor of the newspaper of AL-JUMHURIYAH, which publishes the first part of the interview tomorrow, Thursday, President Mubarak said the country is determined to deal with terrorism firmly and severely at home and abroad. He added that a minority would not be allowed to waste the future of 58 million Egyptians, and nobody would be allowed to strike at a national achievement that is being built with sweat and effort.

President Mubarak said there are many who begrudge this homeland its gains and who do not want it to prosper and flourish. He indicated that as soon as Egypt began to emerge from the bottleneck and when the economic reform programs began to yield fruit and tourist groups began arriving in large numbers in Egypt, terrorism appeared and its elements became active, financed and supported by suspect forces who do not want good for this country.

President Mubarak called for vigilance against these forces and for the firm confrontation of terrorism. He stressed that during the past 10 years the Egyptian people have realized achievements that by all measurements are a miracle. These achievements are in the fields of agriculture, industry, education, housing, and the infrastructure, which alone has cost 82.96 billion pounds.

President Mubarak explained that encouraging capital investment in Egypt is aimed at providing the means for living for the citizens. He said the facilities that the state gives to expatriates and the rich aim to encourage them to bring their funds from abroad and invest them in Egypt. He indicated that encouraging businessmen to invest in Egypt aims not only to open up employment opportunities and increase production and exports but also to increase state revenues. The states takes taxes and customs fees from these investors, which it uses to build hospitals and roads, improve services, and provide social insurance for the citizens.

Asked whether Egyptian businessmen have played their social role and shouldered their national duty, President Mubarak said they have played their role indeed. But they still have a bigger role to play for the sake of their country, for the sake of social peace, and for their own sakes. He said the state gives facilities to local businessmen to invest in Egypt. The state has set several rules for these facilities, the most important of which is that the more the investor invests and creates job opportunities, the more we support and back him.

President Mubarak explained that total national investment in the past 10 years in industry, agriculture, and services has reached 171.2 billion pounds. The public sector and the government have contributed about 100

billion pounds, while the private sector has contributed over 71 billion pounds. He added that this investment means new tourist towns, hotels, factories, projects, and farms. It also means new job opportunities, [words indistinct], and taxes and customs fees which are spent on services for the citizens.

In his interview, President Mubarak criticized those who speak without knowledge or logic and who twist and distort facts. He said if they speak out of frustration or attack without knowing the facts, the presidency was not a gain at all but a prison and continuous and arduous work. He added that he had been frank and sincere with the people from the beginning. At the start of the economic reform he told them that there were heavy burdens that must be shouldered; that they were like a bitter medicine that must willingly be taken or else the country will die.

President Mubarak stressed that economic stability would be achieved in 1995, God willing. He said in the middle of 1995 prices would stabilize and revenues would improve and increase but he warned that the population increase is the monster that eats everything.

Regarding the amendment of the Constitution, President Mubarak said when the appropriate atmosphere and conditions become available, he would not hesitate to amend the Constitution. However, he indicated that raising the subject of the Constitution at present would divide society into supporters and opponents and open the door to disagreement and discord.

Whether the time had come for the state to withdraw and surrender its functions to the private sector and establishments, President Mubarak expressed the belief that the time had not come for the state to abandon its responsibility. He noted that the state's grip in the democratic states that have a free economy, like the United States, was strong. He added that the state was responsible for rebuilding the homeland and protecting its productive forces, not only by providing facilities but also by enabling society to work and produce.

President Mubarak explained that he did not support those who call for cabinet changes in the old way, whereby 104 governments were formed in Egypt in the past 100 years, that is, at a rate of more than one a year. He said his policy and philosophy was that the ministry that draws up the plans and programs is alone responsible for implementing them. He indicated that this did not mean stalemate: The minister or the official who performs badly must leave his post. He noted that during his first and second terms he changed 68 ministers.

President Mubarak declared that the general concept of the coming work plan centered on four basic tenets. The first tenet is achieving a high net profit for annual production. The second tenet is increasing control of population growth through educational, health, and work programs. The third tenet is increasing interest in social justice and protecting the poor, especially in the remaining period of the transitional stage. The fourth tenet is surrounding sedition and eliminating the attempts at agitation and exploitation of people's suffering.

On the multi-party system in Egypt, President Mubarak said it was the basis of the government, adding that it would be preserved and protected. He said the multi-party system was still at the beginning of the road, that for the past 12 years the freedom of political action by the parties had enjoyed guarantees and had not been undermined. He said that the exercise of democracy exists and that freedom of speech, expression, and criticism was undiminished.

Asked about his feeling toward his nomination for a third term, President Mubarak said his feeling of duty had overcome his desire to rest and his right to live like ordinary people do. He said that as an official destined to be at the helm of leadership, he knew that the homeland was at a crossroads, and that Egypt must either continue what it had begun so that it could arrive at the shore of safety or leave it to circumstances and leave the position of responsibility, preferring safety.

President Mubarak said: My nature has triumphed. I am a man of battles. I cannot run away from a battle in which the homeland needs my effort and offering.

'Terrorist' Arrested for Possession of Bomb

NC1509145993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—The security organs arrested a terrorist today while trying to get rid of a bomb he had in his possession in the Bur Safajah area of Qina in al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governorate.

While checking vehicles travelling to and from Qina, Major Khalid Muhammad Mahmud Nasir, an officer in the criminal investigation office in al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governorate, noticed a passenger called Mansur 'Ali 'Abdallah Muhammad, a 25-year-old construction worker who resides in Dandarah, Qina, throw a plastic bundle from the bus he was in, which was waiting in line to be checked. The bundle fell on the ground and the police officer picked it up. A long cylinder bomb was found inside it. The officer immediately arrested the person who was sitting next to the bus window. [passage omitted]

Libya

Spokesman Scores UK Sanctions 'Warning'

LD1609082993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Sep (JANA)—In reply to a statement by a British Foreign and Commonwealth Office spokesman, through which it appears that the Western states are still the ones issuing resolutions rather than the Security Council, a source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation made the following statement:

It has been confirmed that you issue resolutions outside the Security Council, and this is considered to be an insult to this council, and that you are sure, through the content of your statement, that the Western states are the ones which issue sanctions, otherwise, if it was not the case, you would have said that the three states are trying, with the Security Council, to increase these sanctions.

This method of warning is over; it is a method that did not benefit you, even in the past. London's streets witness the state reached by Britain, which has been described as the empire on which the sun shines incessantly.

The fact that you adopt this method confirms that your view of history is still ruled by the old colonialist mentality, and as a result of your statement, in particular, we will act according to what is dictated by our understanding of laws and the principle of national sovereignty.

We have affirmed that Libya does not adopt underhanded dealings, and that it does not submit to threats and the language of warnings. It, however, respects laws, international conventions and the logic of reason and dialogue. It is a stance that has obtained the support of the international community through its regional and international organizations.

Sources Say Libya Fears 'Western Military Landing'

PM1609092993 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 13-19 Sep 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "From Our Own Sources"]

[Text] According to Libyan sources in Cairo, Libya fears a Western military landing on its shores. They say that Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, former coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations, is now in charge of Libyan forces deployed along the entire coastline.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives PFLP's Habash, DFLP's Hawatimah

LD1509132593 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] received brothers George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. They are both leaders of the Palestinian revolution.

Morocco

Israeli MK Comments on Prospects for Ties

TA1409142693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Labor Knesset Member Rafi 'Edri in Morocco by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Have you met with Prime Minister Rabin since his arrival?

['Edri] Yes, I received the prime minister and foreign minister this morning. Moroccan Prime Minister Mohamed Lambrani, Foreign Minister Filali, and the interior minister were with me. I introduced the prime minister and then we all ate breakfast, which ended only about half an hour ago. It was not just breakfast, it was a very heavy meal.

[Friedman] Have you planned a meeting with King Hassan?

['Edri] Definitely. In about two hours we will meet with King Hassan II. I will just add that the prime minister was received at the airport on a red carpet by the king's honor guard and was then driven to the official residence for presidents and heads of government. We made sure yesterday that everything would be ready. He was also received with a military ceremony. At the airport, he was received as head of government, and at the official residence he was given a full military ceremony with all the pomp for which the Moroccan king is well known.

[Friedman] The question that interests many of us now is whether the establishment of diplomatic relations will be announced at today's meeting.

['Edri] I think establishing diplomatic relations is very important, but more important is the fact, which is natural, that after the signing ceremony in Washington, the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister are expressing their appreciation and respect to this large country and its king, who for the past 20 years have worked hard despite criticism in the Arab world. As everybody knows, the first stone in the peace with Egypt was laid in Morocco in the famous meeting between al-Tuhami and Dayan in 1976. This natural act of appreciation will definitely not remain a symbolic act. I believe that more wide-ranging events will take place today, and we must try to make sure that this will happen not only with Morocco, but also with other Arab states. The pleasant atmosphere and the mutual respect and appreciation was obvious today.

[Friedman] From what you have said, you do not expect a declaration announcing diplomatic relations.

['Edri] I think that the issue is important, but the official reception of the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister is no less important, in my view, than setting up diplomatic ties. I think we should do everything naturally and wisely, and speed is dangerous. Whoever wants to speed ahead will hit a wall.

[Friedman] Do you expect a joint announcement by Rabin and King Hassan or some agreement?

['Edri] There will be a news conference at 1830 GMT or 1900 GMT today and almost certainly we will discuss a joint announcement at this afternoon's meeting.

[Friedman] Can you tell us how long you have known and how long the visit has been planned?

['Edri] It was not planned last night, as was reported this morning. I have been here for just over two days and not only I, but others also knew about it.

[Friedman] Do you know the prime minister's next destination? Is he returning home from Morocco or can we expect other surprises?

['Edri] I think we are speeding ahead too fast.

EC Grants 80 Million ECU's for Social Program

LD1509140793 Rabat MAP in English 1311 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Brussels, Sep. 15 (MAP)—Morocco and the EEC concluded Tuesday a convention under which the European Community grants Morocco a non-reimbursable assistance worth 80 million European currency units 'ECU' (about 864 million dh) to support the structural adjustment program [SAP]. The assistance will be used to finance actions meant to alleviate the social impact of the SAP and support the social component of SAP II.

The EEC funds will be disbursed in two steps, 50 million ECU in 1993 and 30 million ECU in 1994. The first part of the amount disbursed in 1993 will back the actions of the education and health departments to improve the quality of education in Morocco, increase the literacy rate, purchase pharmaceutical products and equipment and extend hospitals in rural areas. The funds earmarked for 1994 will be used in sectors to be agreed upon later on by the two sides.

An EEC statement says the economic and financial crisis of the 80s has forced Morocco to reschedule its external debt and to carry out since 1983 a structural adjustment policy with the help of international financial institutions.

After a decade of reforms, Morocco has achieved major economic goals, including the reduction of the budget and current accounts deficits and a large overture of the economy. The 1992-1993 structural adjustment program is the last one in Morocco. Despite important macroeconomic results, the statement went on, the adjustment policy has entailed some negative results on the social scale. The hard currency Morocco is getting from the EEC will help alleviate the social impact of SAP on the poorest layers of the population.

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Responds to U.S. Embassy Report

Khartoum 'Proud' of Human Rights Record

EA1409165693 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Sudan has reiterated its rejection of the blatant interference by America in its internal affairs. In response to a report recently issued by the American Embassy in Khartoum on a number of issues concerning Sudan's internal affairs, the Foreign Ministry stressed the government's seriousness about solving the problem of the south, as evidenced by the national peace dialogue conference and the Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Abuja, and Fashoda negotiations. The statement said America's attitude toward the issue of the south was known, as amply illustrated by its bias in favor of rebel [John] Garang and its action aimed at bringing about the implementation of his agenda.

The statement also referred to America's failure to produce any evidence indicating Sudan's sponsorship of terrorism as alleged by Washington. In reference to America's accusation that Sudan was violating human rights, the statement said that this accusation had been made over and over again over the past years without any evidence and noted that Sudan was proud of its record in this field, while the numerous recent visits to Sudan by international people concerned with human rights served to refute the accusation and expose the baselessness of the American allegations. The statement renewed Sudan's invitation to anyone wanting to visit in order to learn the facts on the ground.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih talked today at the ministry's information forum about the signing of the agreement on Gaza and Jericho and the declaration of mutual recognition by the PLO and Israel, stressing Sudan's support for the option exercised by the Palestinians. He said he hoped the agreement would mark the beginning of aspirations for a permanent peace in the Middle East and the proper implementation of the international resolutions.

He said he hoped for the preservation of Palestinian solidarity and that there would not be any disputes which could lead to damage to the Palestinian cause. Dr. Abu-Salih went on to talk about his visit to Cairo, saying that he delivered a letter from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak concerning relations between the two countries and clarifying Sudan's attitude towards the American administration's outrageous decision on Sudan.

His Excellency outlined the results of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development summit recently convened in Addis Ababa. He said these meetings had resulted in a quadripartite initiative on bringing about peace in the south, led by Kenya and including Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea.

On the meetings of the joint Sudanese-Yemeni ministerial committee, Dr. Abu-Salih announced that the final communique on these meetings would be signed this evening at the friendship hall. He described the meetings as successful by any standard, saying that they had been held in the context of Sudan's efforts to strengthen—as a strategic objective—the bonds of friendship between itself and the Arab states.

Further on U.S. 'Allegations'

EA1509131093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0922 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Sep (SUNA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued Tuesday [14 September] a statement to refute the allegations published by the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum in a newsletter it issued on 9 September.

As regard the search of the ship Youser [as received] by the American forces the statement said the ship was about to depart Djibouti when the American forces asked the Djiboutian authorities to stop it so as to be searched, alleging that it was loaded with arms. The Foreign Ministry's statement affirmed that the American forces played essential role in the searching process and the unloading was carried out at the expense of the American forces.

As regard the American stance toward the south Sudan problem, the statement said the siding with Garang by the American Administration does not need proof because there are many indications of this support such as the presence of Garang in America last May during the round of the peace talks between the government and the rebel movement in Abuja, Nigeria, and adoption of his views on the safe havens and placement of Sudan on the list of the terrorist states by the American Administration.

The statement further questioned why the American Administration keeps silent as regards Garang's terrorist actions and his violation of human rights if it does not bias to him.

The statement denounced the intervention of the embassy in the internal affairs when it spoke about what it said [as received] the failure of the government to restore any form of democracy in Sudan.

Egyptian Intercession Sought on Terrorism Listing

NC1509114493 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Sep 93 p 6

[Report by Mahmud Murad]

[Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has stressed that the U.S. decision to include Sudan on the list of countries supporting terrorism needs to be reconsidered because it was made hastily and without careful thought. He said the United States is considering action against Sudan as part of a cultural struggle against Islam.

In a statement to the Arab Press Forum, which is organized by the AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY, Dr. Abu-Salih said Sudan seeks President Mubarak's efforts to rectify [tashih] the American decision. He noted that Mubarak is the president of Egypt, an Arab leader, and the OAU chairman. Egypt, he said, is not only a neighbor of Sudan, but, thanks to its position and status, is a leading Arab country. It must have very close links with Sudan and the Arab world and it also has a prominent role to play in Africa at this delicate stage, he added.

Abu-Salih said Sudan seeks friendship with all peoples and states. This, he explained, is why he visited Cairo, where he met President Mubarak, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The Sudanese foreign minister denied his country has links with terrorist groups or supports organizations like Hizballah, the Islamic Jihad, or the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group. He said the popular defense camps in Sudan are there to defend the country against the rebels and only Sudanese are trained there. He said the United States knows very well that Sudan does not intend to antagonize it; instead, it seeks greater relations with it.

On the Middle East peace negotiations and the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih said: Sudan believes the Palestinians have the right to decide. They know best how to serve their interests and realize their objectives. Sudan supports the Palestinian option and backs what has happened. It also supports the PLO, which the Arabs agreed to consider the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On Sudan's relations with the Arab world, especially the Gulf states, the Sudanese minister said the time has come to work toward Arab solidarity, especially under the new international situation. The Arab nation has no option, but to demonstrate solidarity, he said. He noted an ongoing dialogue to correct Sudan's image and improve inter-Arab relations.

On the problem of Hala'ib, Abu-Salih said: There is no problem over Hala'ib; the issue may have been handled awkwardly. Perhaps if Egypt asked for Hala'ib, we would give it willingly and cordially: Sudan is a natural extension of Egypt and it welcomes any Egyptians willing to settle in Sudan.

A relationship serving permanent Egyptian-Sudanese interests and preventing any ups and downs must be established, he said.

Asked about the Islamic Front and its negative impact on Egyptian-Sudanese relations, Abu-Salih said Egypt knows all the Sudanese parties and held dialogue with many political forces in the country. He said that while he was not speaking for Dr. al-Turabi, his knowledge of the man meant he could say al-Turabi is not against special relations with Egypt and is doing nothing to hurt Egypt. Such a thing would be impossible, he said.

Abu-Salih Denies Rebels Downed Peace Delegates' Plane

EA1509120993 Khartoum SUNA in English 0943 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Sep (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih Tuesday [14 September] denied

categorically that the peace delegation aeroplane was shot down by the rebel movement.

The minister said the claim of responsibility of the incident by the rebel movement was aimed at making propaganda for the movement.

A Cessna aeroplane, carrying the government's delegation to peace talks with the unified rebel faction, crashed over Pantio town, Upper Nile State, on 5 September.

Opposition Leader Denies 'New Contacts' With Regime

PM1409135793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 93 pp 1, 4

['Uthman Mirghani report: "Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No New Contacts With Sudanese Regime"]

[Excerpt] London— Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the opposition Ummah Party, has denied that any government quarters or the National Islamic Front contacted him recently in the context of what is being reported about reconciliations.

Al-Mahdi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the contacts made with him are old and known about, that he spoke about them in the past, and that they achieved nothing.

He added that the Ummah Party has been exposed to numerous harassments from the regime and its organs, pointing to the confiscation of the al-Qubbah Mosque and the arrest of many leading cadres. He emphasized that his firm position from the outset has been that the way out, avoiding confrontation, is to hold a constitutional [dusturi] national conference in which all political forces and influential figures, including the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], participate.

On moves concerning the call to convene a conference in Harare under Zimbabwean Robert Mugabe's sponsorship in which all Sudanese parties (government and opposition) participate, al-Mahdi said that he had learned that President Mugabe is making a move in this connection after an SPLM initiative. And that the aim of this move is to call for the convening of a Sudanese peace conference in which all involved forces participate.

He added that the general idea of this conference appears to be similar to the constitutional national conference idea supported by all the Sudanese parties, which is why he welcomes it. But the agenda for a conference in Harare is still unclear, nor has the issue as a whole crystallized.

Al-Mahdi spoke about differences in regime circles in Khartoum, saying that these are reflected in the conflicting statements made. He said that the regime's elements—even if they think they are strong militarily—are weak politically and economically. [passage omitted]

Fashoda Commissioner Says Peace 'Imminent'

EA1409123093 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Sep (SUNA)—The commissioner of Fashoda [site of recent government-SPLA (Sudanese People's Liberation Army) talks] province, upper Nile state, said that peace is imminent with the unified faction of the rebellion movement.

In an interview with AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily of Tuesday [14 September], the commissioner, Joseph Paul, said that the province has adopted a work plan for rehabilitating the province and establishing projects in the fields of services and education, indicating that next year would be the year of peace.

Western Sahara

Polisario Wants Sahara Peace Talks with Morocco

LD1609073993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] has reiterated its readiness to continue direct contacts with Morocco so as to make the peace plan in Western Sahara successful. It expressed its concern over Morocco's stance, which impedes the work of the UN commission for defining identity. Here are the details as supplied by our correspondent Ammar Bouderba:

[Bouderba] The Polisario Front, in a statement handed to APS yesterday, while reiterating its adherence to the continuation of direct contacts with the Moroccan authorities, condemned Morocco's stance which has recourse—as mentioned in the statement—to maneuvering and procrastination in order to obstruct the peace plan in Western Sahara.

The Polisario Front's statement, which was released after the meeting of its National Secretariat—organized between 11-13 September of this year—points out that the Laayoune meeting, which was organized so as to hold direct negotiations between the two sides, represented an encouraging initiative.

The secretariat considers that dialogue and direct negotiations are essential in the process of seeking a reasonable and acceptable solution to the pending problems, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No. 709.

The Polisario Front expresses its concern over the stance of the Moroccan side, which continues to hamper the work of the commission for defining identity, and which wants to default on the commitments it made before the international community. The National Secretariat of the Polisario Front calls on the international community to intervene strongly so as to ensure that Morocco abides by commitments.

Kuwait

Information Minister Comments on Ties With Israel

LD1509113993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1104 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah said here today that the Kuwaiti Government has not made any contact concerning what was raised recently about the normalization of relations between Israel and some Arab states, including Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah added, in a statement to the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY in reply to a question relating to a statement by the Israeli minister of economy during his recent visit to Morocco about the possibility of normalizing relations with some Arab states including Kuwait, that a decision in this connection is a pan-Arab matter and a decision should be taken through the Arab League. The Kuwaiti official confirmed that this will be followed as per Kuwait's commitment to its political line based on coordination with other fraternal states concerning various issues that affect the Arab nation.

Minister Queried on Domestic Concerns, Islamic Ties

PM1509154393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Sep 93 p 6

[Interview with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, by Zaynab 'Abd-al-Hadi in Kuwait; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Hadi] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, recently urged avoidance of a conflict between the National Assembly (parliament) and the government. How can the Assembly and the government avoid the conflict? And have issues been raised which could result in changed relations between them?

[Al-Dakhil] The Kuwaiti Constitution defines the relationship among the three authorities—the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities. Namely, that there should be strong cooperation among them with a view to achieving the homeland's higher interests. Although the Constitution stipulates the principle of the separation of powers, so that a balance will continue to exist among them in the interests of democracy and stability, it also stipulates that there should be cooperation among these authorities within the limits specified in it.

His highness the heir apparent's appeal to avoid a conflict between the National Assembly and the government falls within the framework of his constant interest in the unity of ranks among all people in Kuwaiti society in view of the conditions and challenges Kuwait is experiencing. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Hadi] The National Assembly is seeking through the fact-finding committee to convict officials guilty of negligence during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, while the Assembly's financial committee continues to investigate major excesses involving public funds. What is the government's view, and to what extent will deputies' moves to convict those guilty of negligence and excesses be acceptable to the executive authority?

[Al-Dakhil] Among the means stipulated by the Constitution to monitor the executive authority's actions is the National Assembly's right to form committees to investigate major issues. The Assembly decided to form a fact-finding committee to investigate the Iraqi invasion. This committee is currently pursuing its work, and when its task has been completed, the facts will become clear to it. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Hadi] During the elections some Kuwaiti political groups raised the idea of establishing parties. Do you support this idea, and would the Kuwaiti Constitution accommodate it?

[Al-Dakhil] In my view, a country like Kuwait might not be able to support the establishment of political parties at this stage. We live in a country which was exposed to a catastrophe whose effects it is still suffering. We are aware of the ambitions and dangers surrounding us and which will not miss any opportunity to exploit any chink in the Kuwaiti edifice, which is why a partisan experiment at this time could be costly and beyond Kuwait's capacity.

['Abd-al-Hadi] The country is facing financial difficulties. While there is a limited oil revenue, there are increasing local and defense spending commitments. Has the government any practical ideas of how to increase revenues and reduce spending?

[Al-Dakhil] Despite fixing the oil production ceiling out of Kuwait's commitment to OPEC decisions, and although the rebuilding process requires an increase in that ceiling in order to reconcile the country's revenue from this resource and the increasing expenses resulting from the burdens and commitments of the current stage, Kuwait is earnestly trying to balance the sources of income and the items of expenditure by rationing spending, but without disrupting security and military requirements.

['Abd-al-Hadi] Little has been revealed about details of the defense agreements Kuwait has signed with Western states. Are there time or material limits to Western commitments to these agreements? And what are Kuwait's financial and political commitments? And is there any intention to conclude agreements with other states?

[Al-Dakhil] Kuwait signed defense agreements with the United States, Britain, and France. It is bound to these states by strong and historic relations which were confirmed by the war to liberate Kuwait. These agreements proceed from the principles of joint cooperation and

respect for every state's sovereignty over its own territory. They are aimed at guaranteeing Kuwait's independence and sovereignty and safeguarding its security and stability. And Kuwait will not hesitate to conclude any agreement or take any measure that is bound to achieve this legitimate aim.

There are no Kuwaiti financial or political commitments in return for these agreements, which fall within the framework of the desire to cooperate in all spheres to achieve common interests.

['Abd-al-Hadi] Kuwait continues to emphasize its refusal to restore relations with the Arab capitals which supported Iraq during its aggression. Have any of these capitals expressed a practical desire to rectify relations? And what are Kuwait's demands in this connection?

[Al-Dakhil] The Kuwaiti people cannot forget the ugly positions taken by some of the regimes which supported the barbarous aggression against Kuwait on 2 August 1990. Their positions were a violation of Arab principles, conventions, and charters. [passage omitted]

Jordan and the PLO are in the forefront of these regimes, they went to unimaginable lengths in their support of the aggression. Their media even beat Iraq's media in supporting the aggression. And they still insist on continuing this position without any consideration for the values of right and conscience.

Jordan and the PLO are excluded from the question of rectifying relations. As for the other regimes whose positions during the predicament we have not forgotten, if there are reasons for us to consider rectifying their situations, this will depend on essential foundations and principles, most importantly the need for these states to condemn, oppose, and reject the Iraqi invasion and to urge the Iraqi regime to comply with the Security Council resolutions concerning its aggression against Kuwait. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Hadi] Western states are expressing many fears over Iranian armament efforts, and some Arab states accuse Iran of sponsoring terrorism. And Iran's recent measures in Abu Musa island are still in evidence. Where do these facts fit in Kuwait-Iranian relations?

[Al-Dakhil] Relations between Kuwait and Iran are based on the common understanding prompted by the teachings of the true Islamic religion binding the two states, as well as the principles of good-neighborliness. Relations between the two countries have always been and will continue to be distinctive and based on mutual respect and concern for the common interests of the two fraternal peoples.

Kuwait does not forget the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran—government and people—during the brutal Iraqi invasion and its noncompliance with the Iraqi regime's demands. As for the differences between some fraternal Arab states and Iran, they should be resolved in a framework of consultation and brotherly dialogue that is bound to bring views closer and resolve any disagreement. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

'No Knowledge' of Saudi Girl Treated in Israel

LD1509180493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Jeddah, 15 Sep (SPA)—With regard to the report published yesterday by the Egyptian newspaper AL JUMHURIYAH, quoting Israeli radio, that a little Saudi girl received medical treatment in Israel after suffering from difficulty in breathing and lack of growth, a responsible source at the Health Ministry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia said in a statement to SPA today: "The competent authorities have no knowledge whatsoever of the event referred to in this news item."

First Group of Wounded Bosnians Arrives for Treatment

LD1509160293 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 15 Sep (SPA)—One of Saudi Arabia's medical evacuation planes carrying three wounded people from Bosnia-Herzegovina touched down at At-Ta'if airport. The wounded were the first batch of 50 which King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, instructed should be brought to the Kingdom to receive treatment in its hospitals.

As soon as the wounded arrived in the airport, equipped ambulances took them to the armed forces hospital in Al-Huda to receive treatment.

The wounded Bosnians and those accompanying them expressed their deep thanks to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, for his generous humane gesture. [passage omitted]

Hammadi Missing Since Attempt on Saddam's Life

NC1509152593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] A statement issued by an Iraqi opposition group that has contacts in Tikrit has affirmed that there was an attempt to assassinate Saddam Husayn at the end of August 1993 that was organized by a group of people from Tikrit. This was followed by a large-scale campaign of killing and execution of the townsmen. The statement issued in London yesterday said a number of ranking former officials have disappeared since that date, among them prominent figures, tribal chiefs, and ranking officials. The group reported rumors in Baghdad about the disappearance of former regime officials, among them former Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi.

Brigadier General Executed

JN1609091693 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] Rumors are rife among citizens in the capital, Baghdad, on the disappearance of a number of former senior officials in the (?decaying) tyrant's regime. Our sources in Baghdad say that one such rumor is the disappearance of former Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi (?al-Walah) whom the tyrant dismissed and replaced by Muhamad Hamzah al-Zubaydi and later by Ahmad Husayn al-Samarra'i.

Moreover, the same sources say that the criminal authorities of the tyrant have recently handed the body of Brigadier General Ibrahim al-Sayyab to his family in the al-'Aziziyah area after his arrest earlier by the department of arrests and interrogation in the Saddamist palace, which is supervised by criminal Arshad Yasin, the tyrant's protection officer and brother-in-law. The sources say the tyrant executed Ibrahim al-Sayyab by a firing squad.

It is worth mentioning that a great number of officers and officials in the collapsing regime, mostly from the people of Tikrit, Mosul, and (Raghib) were arrested by the tyrant and a number of them were executed after the latest attempt to eliminate Saddam and his corrupt clique.

Attempt To Kill Saddam's Brother Reportedly Foiled

JN1609081393 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] As a sign of the rapidly deteriorating security situation and the rife differences within the despicable ruling family, reports speak of an attempt to assassinate Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, the tyrant's half brother and his rJpresentative in Geneva, on his way back to Baghdad.

Sources of the Iraqi opposition say the assassination attempt was carried out by the tyrant's son-in-law, Husayn Kamil, because of differences between the two men.

The sources say that intelligence organs in Amman, the Jordanian capital, discovered the attempt in cooperation with the personal guards of Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti and informed the Jordanian authorities, which later foiled the attempt.

Saddam Chairs Cultural Meeting; 'Udayy Attends

JN1509201893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1928 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today chaired a meeting of the head and members of the Pan-Arab Culture and Information Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, head of the Iraq cultural grouping and a number of the country's writers and men of letters.

Defense Minister Attends Tactical Exercise

JN1509160893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Defense Minister fighter Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid has attended a live ammunition tactical exercise carried out by the heroic Nasr Forces in the 'Amuriyah Forces sector of operations. The exercise was codenamed the Fursan al-Nasr [Knights of Victory] exercise.

At the end of the exercise, fighter Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid stressed the importance of creating an atmosphere of real combat in tactical exercises to give fighters a major chance for training, maneuvering, innovation, and performance of duties.

The minister called on commanders to make the best use of the Air Force jets at the required time and place to provide the best and most effective support in accordance with the planned combat stages.

Those who took part in the exercise from the heroic Nasir forces pledged to leader mujahid President Saddam Husayn that the Nasr forces will remain the golden division, as his excellency called them, and which have proved to be so in combat fields in defense of great Iraq against all defeated aggressors.

The Fursan al-Nasr exercise was attended by fighters Army Chief Staff General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah, his aide for operations and training, senior Army officers, and the comrade secretary of the command of the 'Amuriyah military branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, directors of combat and services corps, and elite fighters of the heroic 'Amuriyah forces.

Daily Reports Delegation Talks With UN Officials

JN1509202293 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Sep 93 pp 1, 2

[By Dr. Sami Sa'dun]

[Excerpts] A ranking technical Iraqi delegation, led by engineer 'Amir al-'Ubaydi, director of the Military Industrialization Organization, and Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on banning the possession or production by Iraq of certain weapons, ended a round of talks in New York on 11 September. They also agreed to resume the talks in Baghdad in early October. Ekeus praised the positive atmosphere that prevailed in the talks, and said that Iraq wanted to close this file and to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution No. 687. The paragraph calls for lifting the economic embargo on Iraq.

For his part, Dr. Zifferero, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who took part in the talks, affirmed that the solution was now nearer than ever. At a news conference, Dr. 'Amir al-'Ubaydi said that after positive and constructive discussions, the two sides agreed to a mechanism for solving remaining issues. It is well known that the talks were held in accordance with a paper handed over to Ekeus in Baghdad in mid-July, after the so-called two-camera crisis was overcome. The paper, which was presented to the Security Council, stressed the Security Council's responsibilities toward Iraq as an independent state, which has the right to sovereignty, security, territorial integrity, and a decent life, as well as Iraq's readiness to cooperate sincerely and positively to end all the problems and obstacles that the enemies utilize to maintain the unjust blockade.

Political observers have noticed for a long time that because of Iraq's positive behavior toward the United Nations, as well as its implementation of its commitments in accordance with the Security Council's resolutions, and also because of the hostile U.S. policy, an international position has emerged that opposes the tyrannical force hostile to Iraq—a position which imposed itself before and after the unjust 30-state aggression.

The new position signals a growing understanding of Iraq's positions and its compliance with its obligations, which were imposed by Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution No. 687. That position also calls for refraining from the arbitrary policy being pursued by the U.S. Administration and its followers toward Iraq, as well as for lifting the unjust blockade, which led to the death of thousands of patients, children, and elderly people. [passage omitted]

In light of this, it has become clear that the unjust blockade is going to be terminated within a short period of time if matters proceed naturally without any interference by this or that party for well known political purposes, as it has been the case over the past three years. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Receives Sudanese Counterpart

JN1509163493 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, Sep. 15, INA—Iraqi Interior Minister Mr. Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan met here today his Sudanese counter part Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn. During the meeting the Iraqi minister hailed the special relations between Iraq and Sudan and said that the Sudan's nationalist stand in support of Iraq reflected its patriotic responsibilities in facing the imperialist scheme aimed to disunite Iraq.

For his part the Sudanese minister expressed his admiration of Iraq in continuing its program of construction and challenging the imperialist plans.

On the other hand the first session of official talks between interior ministries of Iraq and Sudan began here today. The Iraqi side [was] headed by General Mahmud Shukur Shahin commander of the Iraqi Police, while the Sudanese side [was] headed by General Hasan Ahmad Siddiq commander of the Sudanese Police. The two sides discussed cooperation and coordination between the two ministries and exchange of experiences in the fields of police, civil affairs and civil defence.

The session [was] attended by a number of officials in the Interior Ministries of the two countries and the Sudanese ambassador to Iraq.

Saddam Receives al-Bashir Message

JN1509192993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1707 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Sep (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation in sisterly Sudan. The message deals with fraternal relations between the two countries and issues of joint interest.

The message was conveyed to his excellency by Sudanese Interior Minister Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, who is currently visiting Iraq.

The Sudanese interior minister conveyed to President Saddam Husayn greetings from his brother Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir's and wishes for continued health and success. He reiterated the support of the Sudanese Government and people for their brothers in Iraq in confronting the unjust blockade. He praised the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and their leadership as they confront the fiercest onslaught by the enemies of the Arab nation.

President Saddam Husayn asked 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn to convey his greetings to the fraternal Sudanese Government and people and his wishes for continued progress and prosperity.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan and Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, minister of state at the Sudanese Presidency .

Government Prepares for Ties With Arab States

TA1509121293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Sep 93 pp A1, A10

[Report by Hemi Shalev from Rabat, Yerah Tal, Gay Bekhor, 'Aqiva Eldar, and agencies]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A source at the Saudi Embassy in Washington yesterday told HA'ARETZ that his country may soon agree to de facto relations with Israel. This may happen when it is assured that the Israeli-PLO agreement is indeed implemented as planned. The source said that Saudi Arabia will be willing to extend financial aid to the Palestinian entity to be established in the territories, although the exact amount of that aid was still unclear. Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, the Saudi ambassador in Washington, has been discussing this issue with the Americans.

Special Foreign Ministry teams are planning the ministry's reorganization in view of the possibility of a considerable number of countries announcing the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel soon. The Foreign Ministry anticipates at least six Arab and Muslim countries will announce their recognition of Israel and intention to establish diplomatic ties with it in the next few weeks.

These countries are Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and Malaysia. In the more distant future, ties are anticipated with Mauritania and Namibia, and possibly Pakistan and Bangladesh. The Pakistani, Indonesian, and Malaysian Foreign Ministries yesterday issued statements in support of the Israel-PLO agreement, and the Foreign Ministry views that as a signal that these countries intend to announce their recognition of Israel and establishment of diplomatic relations with it soon.

Rabin Interviewed on Accord With PLO

TA1509142593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1120 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Special Rosh Hashanah interview with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, by Moshe Shlonsky on 15 September; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Shlonsky] Good morning and Happy New Year, Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Happy New Year to you. Happy New Year to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], border policemen, the Israel Police, the other security forces, the confrontation line inhabitants, and the entire nation.

[Shlonsky] This morning you returned from visits to the United States and Morocco. These visits were the result of the strategic, perhaps historic, decision you made this week, which was one of the greatest decisions ever made in the State of Israel. Do you believe you have returned to a different country, a different era?

[Rabin] I return with great hope for the new year. I ardently believe and hope that this year will be a year of a positive turnaround. Seeds have been sown enabling a substantive change. For the first time since the establishment of the State of Israel, two agreements between us and the Palestinians have been achieved. It is generally believed that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is the hub of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but even if that is not so, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has undoubtedly had a negative impact—either as a pretext or in fact—on the chances for peace between us and all the Arab nations and countries.

The mutual Israel-PLO recognition agreement signed last Friday [10 September], which conformed with our terms—two years ago, I would not have believed that these terms were attainable—and the declaration of principles signed in Washington on Monday give grounds to the hope that in a gradual, biphased process, we can.... [pauses] These agreements speak of the implementation of interim arrangements, which, according to the letter of invitation to the Madrid conference, should lead to Palestinian self-government in the territories while preserving the unity of Jerusalem under our sovereignty; keeping the settlements intact; preserving our right and duty to ensure the security of settlements and safeguard the lives of all Israelis staying in the territories; and naturally, our responsibility for external security. If all these are gradually implemented, starting in Gaza and Jericho—Jericho is a very minor issue, Gaza will be the main test—if we are indeed successful, as I know we can be, I think we will usher in a new era.

Moreover, the Moroccan visit attests to the fact that the achievement of agreements—for the first time since this state's establishment, a direct agreement was achieved between us and the Palestinians—may bring a turnaround. I believe a turnaround will indeed take place in the approach of many Arab countries toward Israel. Thus, we are on the verge of a great chance, which also involves risks.

[Shlonsky] You have mentioned several very clear terms in the sphere of defense, and in Washington, you publicly discussed them in detail. You referred to borders, settlements, and the movement of Israelis in the territories. Do you believe these terms are acceptable to the PLO?

[Rabin] They are a part of the declaration of principles and its addenda. Naturally, much still needs to be worked out in discussions between us and the PLO inside and outside the territories before we can finalize the framework, format, troop deployment, and the patterns of the assumption of responsibility by the Palestinians in Palestinian areas. And, we have to see to what extent their capability passes the test of Gaza.

I believe that having signed this agreement, we took the least possible risk. It was indeed a risk, but it was smaller than the risk involved in the evacuation of territories in return for peace.

[Shlonsky] If you feel the process is not making the envisaged progress, do you have the option of halting it and saying: No further, we are stopping and reconsidering?

[Rabin] My outlook at this point is based on the hope, the belief, that the agreement can be implemented. The declaration of principles aims to establish that which we undertook when we went to the Madrid conference, in two stages beginning with Gaza and Jericho and continuing with Judaea and Samaria. I would just say that the period during which this declaration of principles is implemented will present the least risks.

I would like to explain, if I may. With regard to threats to the State of Israel, I have always discerned two levels. One level is the threat to the State of Israel's very existence. Although this threat has greatly diminished, owing to various international circumstances as well as the peace with Egypt, it is the most serious. It is embodied in the armies of Arab countries and possibly in the armies of Muslim countries in the future. Most of the defense budget is invested in building an IDF that will be able to meet that threat and eliminate it, if we are forced to contend with it.

The second level is the threat to the personal security of the State of Israel's inhabitants. Palestinian and Hizballah terror have never threatened the existence of the State of Israel, and they never will. It is a worrying, painful, and sometimes lethal threat which IDF soldiers and Israeli civilians sometimes face, and it has to be addressed, but it does not endanger the very existence of the State of Israel. Some people paint an apocalyptic picture of the risks Israel is running from the Palestinians. It is not true—and my words are an understatement—that the Palestinians can endanger the existence of the State of Israel.

[Shlonsky] And yet several very serious terrorist events happened in the territories between your departure for the United States and your return. They are liable to cause dissatisfaction and hard feelings in Israel, and even affect the future of the public consent to take on the risks that you have just presented.

[Rabin] We should differentiate between things. First of all, murderous terrorism that harms soldiers and civilians is grave and should be combated with all our strength. But now, more than ever, we should pay attention to the identity of those perpetrating terrorist attacks: Every terrorist event of recent days, including some painful and serious attacks, was perpetrated by Islamic extremists: Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and possibly the Islamic Jihad, all of whose activities are currently focused—in addition to murdering Jews simply because they are Jews and Israelis.... [pauses] Because three of the IDF fatalities were Druze—and for me they are IDF soldiers in every sense—the pain we feel over their deaths is equal to the pain we feel for every dead IDF soldier. But who is carrying out these attacks and with what purpose in mind? These are the people who oppose the agreement. And one of the main problems we will face when we reach the implementation stage is to what degree the Palestinians prove capable of fulfilling their commitments, as set out by the agreement of principles, once we gradually turn responsibility over to them for the Gaza Strip and for areas densely populated with Palestinians. If they prove capable of implementing their commitments as stipulated in the agreement of principles....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Are they capable of doing this in your opinion?

[Rabin] The question is whether they will be able to maintain public order and prevent terrorist attacks, both between themselves and most certainly against Israelis. This is the main test as far as Israel is concerned, as well as the question of whether resources will come from abroad—from Europe and from the rich oil states—in order to supply the Palestinian self-administration with the kind of resources necessary in order to prove to the Palestinian residents that the change in the situation will improve their economic and social conditions. As far as Israel is concerned, the test will be their ability to maintain public order and prevent terrorist attacks by extremist elements who seek to undermine the whole process, mainly by Hamas and the Palestinian rejectionist fronts. This will be their test, and as far as we are concerned, its results will decide whether we proceed onwards. From this aspect, the marks they receive for implementing the first stages in Gaza—and I reiterate that in this matter Jericho has only marginal impact—will constitute their test, before the agreement is fully implemented in Judaea and Samaria. I make a strong distinction between these two areas, both with regard to the historic and religious attachment of the Jewish people to Judaea and Samaria as compared to the Gaza Strip, as well as considering the region's importance in security terms, which is several times more significant than that of the Gaza Strip.

[Shlonsky] Now that so much progress has been made on the Palestinian track, do you think that the negotiations with the Syrians should be accelerated, or is Israel in no hurry now, as opposed to several months ago? Can we now set more difficult conditions and stick to our positions more adamantly?

[Rabin] The main test, certainly at the start of the new year, will be the realization of the agreements we have just reached; or, in other words, the actual transfer of self-rule to the Palestinians, the first stage of which will take place in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. We shall also continue the negotiations with the Jordanians, and I welcome yesterday's signing of an agreement on the agenda for future discussions with Jordan at the next round of talks. If, in light of the past week's developments, Jordan reaches the conclusion that it can make progress toward a peace agreement, then there are not many obstacles for Israel and Jordan to overcome in order to reach peace, at least not on the bilateral track. If, as could indeed be the case, Jordan does not find this possible, then I will regret it. As for Lebanon, I believe

that we can reach peace in a relatively short time. Why do I say this? Because no Israeli Government since the 1967 war has ever demanded the annexation of Lebanese territory. There is an international border which is recognized by both countries. Israel can reach a peace treaty with Lebanon, if Lebanon proves its ability to maintain full security over all its sovereign territory. I was defense minister when the security zone was established in 1985. It was not established in order to annex territory but to exercise control over the area in order to guarantee the security of the Israeli settlements and civilians along Israel's border with Lebanon. The Syrians have been a disappointment recently. After Operation Accountability there were reports—which did not come at our request—that the Lebanese Government had decided to deploy Lebanese Army forces in the southern part of the country up to the border of the security zone. I believe the reports spoke of something between 1,000 and 1,300 soldiers that would impose the sovereignty of the Lebanese there and perhaps also disarm Hizballah. When I met with Secretary of State Christopher on his last visit to the Middle East, I told him that in order to make peace with Lebanon, Israel would be willing to try the following test. Let the Lebanese Army deploy north of the security zone and prove in the course of six months that it can disarm Hizballah and the other terrorist organizations, and also prevent any hostile activity against Israel. After the six months, it would only take another three months for Lebanon and Israel to sign a peace treaty. And I am talking about full peace, not the implementation of UN Resolution 425. That does not exist for us. I am talking about negotiations that will lead to a peace treaty. Israel would then pull back to the international border, and security arrangements would take effect. We are responsible for the future wellbeing of the SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers and of the residents of the security zone who worked together with us. We will demand that their future be assured and that, just like the members of other disarmed militias, they will be integrated into the Lebanese Army. We shall not abandon them and we remain responsible for their fate. But look what happened? As soon as the decision of the Lebanese Government was made public, pressure from Syria prevented the massive deployment of Lebanese Army troops north of the security zone. One battalion of 400 or 600 soldiers was sent, but that was obviously not enough to control Hizballah. At the same time, we are witnessing an increase in Syrian aid to the extremist Palestinian organizations that make up the rejectionist fronts— Jibril, Hawatimah, Habash, Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha].

[Shlonsky] Are you talking about the last few days?

[Rabin] The recent period. We hear Jibril's al-Quds radio, which for a long time has been broadcasting incitement against the peace process. We have heard death threats against the members of the Palestinian delegation and against other notables who support the negotiations. In Syria, such a degree of freedom of action and license to broadcast could only come from the most senior levels. Syria should emphasize its desire to reach peace, both in statements issued by officials and by the Syrian president, and also through its behavior in Lebanon and toward the rejectionist fronts. This, so that when the agreement signed in Washington is ultimately implemented, it will prove feasible.

[Shlonsky] With your permission, let me ask a few questions pertaining to this week's events in Washington. When you were making your speech from the podium, one got the impression that you were speaking not so much to the audience or to the Palestinians but more to the Israelis listening back home or to the American Jewish community. Is that true?

[Rabin] I was merely saying what I felt. I was speaking to anyone who was prepared to listen. I think that it is no less important for such statements to be made in the presence of the U.S. President, the Administration officials, and the American public. This, so that they realize that Israel has also taken calculated risks in order to promote the making of peace. This agreement does not yet mean peace. It signifies the PLO's, as the most important Palestinian element, and Israel's acceptance of each other. It is still not a peace treaty. It is the first stage in the establishment of self-rule for the Palestinians without Israel making any commitments regarding its future demands when the negotiations for the permanent solution begin.

[Shlonsky] Watching you on stage, one got the impression that you were extremely fidgety? Did you feel uncomfortable in that very unusual situation?

[Rabin] Look, I made the decision a long time ago. I reached the decision after arriving at the conclusion that I was deeply and personally committed—not just because of my election campaign speeches—after a long period of military service and many years as defense minister, to search after every possibility to promote the making of peace. For me, reaching peace while maintaining Israel's security constitute a single whole, and I consider that my test as prime minister. I discovered that there was no Palestinian partner. I had hopes regarding the Palestinian leadership in the territories. I knew that they were incapable of accomplishing anything without a green light from Tunis. Over the past few months, I reached the conclusion that if we really wanted to reach peace or to implement the interim accord, we would have to go directly to those who wished to negotiate and reach peace, the party that was also a significant player, and I am talking about the PLO. Pursuing the alternative would only strengthen the opponents of peace and the extremist Islamic elements. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich on Peace Process, Ties With U.S.

TA1509172093 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Sep 93 p 18

[Interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of the Israeli delegation to the negotiations with Syria, by Drora Perl in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Perl] How does it feel to be the ambassador to the United States?

[Rabinovich] I feel great. We work very well with this U.S. Administration and we have a very close relationship. The peace process has been at the focus of our relationship all this time, and the fact that we are working together on the peace process has contributed to our bilateral relations. The fact that our joint efforts have borne their first fruit is a very good development. One can sense the enthusiasm with which the President has joined in, the way he supported the agreement. This is no longer only a matter of meetings between American and Israeli officials. Mainstream America has embraced, at least partially, the peace process.

[Perl] Was it the close relationship with the present administration that made the agreement with the Palestinians possible, or did the process simply reach the appropriate stage, particularly after we saw that the "alternative" route made such an agreement possible?

[Rabinovich] It is hard to say. I assumed my post as delegation head and negotiator when the former administration was still in power. But it was in its twilight hours, with Baker running Bush's election campaign from the White House. Therefore, I do not have any real sense of having worked with the previous administration. However, I do not think that this comparison is of any importance. I can talk about the present administration in absolute terms. We have an instinctively supportive President. He is very supportive of Israel in any case, and he is particularly supportive of the current peace process. We have a supportive secretary of state, who has turned the Arab-Israeli peace process into one of his foreign policy focal points, and we have a professional peace team composed of very experienced and extremely dedicated people. The combination of all the above is both useful and convenient as far as Israel is concerned.

[Perl] There was a feeling, at least for a certain period, that the Clinton administration was not strong enough to promote the peace process as much as it wanted to. Does the achievement made on the Palestinian track attest to the administration's ability to facilitate progress?

[Rabinovich] It certainly attests to its ability, but even more so to its motivation. When the U.S. Administration was facing serious difficulties last spring, questions were raised as to its efficacy. I think it is over that now. I do not think this is a weak administration. A superpower can always help small countries. The question is always the degree of its motivation, the administration's conviction that its efforts are worthwhile and justified. In that respect, the agreement will contribute mainly to the feeling that the process is worth pursuing.

[Perl] What will be the U.S. role in pursuing a path that we have reached ourselves?

[Rabinovich] It is true that we reached this path ourselves and that the United States was not very active on the Oslo track. However, it knew about the contacts. It also understood the advantages of trying out such a track. It could not get involved in it because of its legal constraints regarding contacts with the PLO, which were in force until the last few days.

Sometimes it is difficult for Israel, as a small country, to think in superpower terms. A superpower with a global viewpoint, which is the patron of the peace process, can permit itself not to participate in a certain stage of the process. It is familiar with the big picture, and trusts those who are handling the negotiations. It can rejoin the process at the appropriate moment, while constantly maintaining the framework in which things can happen. The Oslo track brought certain results, but there is also the general framework of the peace process that the United States has maintained all the time—without which the parallel framework could not have made progress. [passage omitted]

[Perl] In the days following the agreement with the Palestinians, both President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher stressed the importance of making progress with Syria, "even by the end of the year." What will happen on the Syrian track?

[Rabinovich] Clearly the developments are either going to happen at the Washington talks, or at the U.S. level in the course of Secretary of State Christopher's trips to the region.

[Perl] There will be no Oslo track?

[Rabinovich] As somebody who was supposed to have been bypassed by the Oslo track, I am certainly not about to declare that there will be such a track.

At any rate, we are hoping to make progress with the Syrians as well by the end of the year. The main obstacle is Syria's categorical demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights before it explains what it means by "full peace" or deals with those aspects that are crucial for us, such as public diplomacy, confidence building measures, and so forth. Things must happen in order to remove these obstacle.

[Perl] How much can Syria do in order to spoil the agreement with the Palestinians? Has this agreement ruined anything with Syria?

[Rabinovich] The agreement with the Palestinians has not spoiled anything. Christopher's visit to the region generated a new spirit, in the more humble sense of the word, on the Syrian-Israeli track. We backslid a bit during the ninth and 10th rounds, and in the round that just ended, the secretary of state put us back into a progress groove, modest progress but progress nonetheless, both with regard to the formulations as well as to the atmosphere at the talks.

I do not want to get into a detailed discussions of whether and how the Syrians can spoil things for the Palestinians. This is not a subject on which I wish to give anyone advice, or to promote. Whenever there is a complex and fragile agreement it is easy to sit on the sidelines and be a

spoilsport. It is easy to ruin things. Syria is not an insignificant country and it is definitely capable of harming matters if it wants to. Therefore, I was very pleased when we were told that the Syrian ambassador in Washington would attend the signing ceremony of the agreement with the Palestinians. This was a public expression of Syria's approval of the agreement.

[Perl] The Americans played a major role in al-Asad's decision to send the ambassador to the ceremony. How central a role will the Americans continue to play in the negotiations with Syria?

[Rabinovich] The Americans will play a central role.

[Perl] Did you imagine when you arrived at the Israeli Embassy that we would reach an agreement with the Palestinians during your tenure here?

[Rabinovich] I believed there would be a breakthrough. Of course I did not know exactly how this would be accomplished.

[Perl] What are your personal feelings now?

[Rabinovich] I definitely feel good, especially on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. Nevertheless, even when feeling at my best, I remain aware of the complexities.

Chief of Staff Baraq Outlines IDF Redeployment

TA1509171493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Sep 93 p 17

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, IDF chief of staff, by On Levi, Daniyel Bloch, and David Fayance; conducted in Baraq's office "a short time after the White House signing ceremony"]

[Excerpts] [DAVAR] What was your reaction to the White House signing ceremony?

[Baraq] I watched it here in my office. My feeling was that we were witnessing a spectacle that most of us would not have believed possible a year ago. Undoubtedly, this is an extremely significant move that harbors great chances, otherwise the government would not have undertaken it. On the other hand, there are also difficulties and dangers, and I know that the government is aware of this as well.

[DAVAR] From various reports, it appears that you see more dangers than chances in the agreement.

[Baraq] This is a wrong impression. Being in uniform, I am not at liberty to discuss the political angle and the decisionmaking process. On the other hand, it is my duty to deal with the security aspects. In the cabinet sessions, I indeed commented at length about issues that were new to some of the ministers, but that the prime minister is familiar with as a result of lengthy talks we have held over the previous months regarding security issues that relate to various aspects of different versions of an autonomy.

We briefed the ministers about the security problems involved in the implementation of autonomy in general and in the Gaza interim arrangements in particular.

What I told the ministers—and I also said this publicly—is, briefly, as follows: The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] power will be vital also during the period of peacemaking, because it is this power that brought Arab leaders to conduct direct negotiations with Israel, and it enables Israel to negotiate from a position of strength. The details of the agreement pose a great challenge to our negotiators in terms of the security arrangements, and could result in a complicated security situation with which the IDF will have to deal, and will deal. The way we cope with this challenge will also determine the nature of potential future agreements.

I believe we must tell the Israeli Government and the Israeli public the truth about the problems involved in this situation. We must conduct an in-depth discussion on how to implement it as best as possible, and then go ahead and do our best on the ground.

[DAVAR] Do you have the feeling of being wronged by the public criticism leveled against you, including by President Weizman?

[Baraq] We have great respect for the president, and we accept everything coming from the mouth of the president of Israel.

[DAVAR] You are said to have been surprised by the fact that Rabin did not involve you in all the preliminary stages, but rather chose to update you only after the understandings have been achieved.

[Baraq] Technically we were not surprised. We knew about the fact that contacts are being held in Oslo and elsewhere, and we were informed about the general outlines of the contents. In this respect, neither I, nor the head of the Intelligence Branch and some other General Staff members, were surprised. At the same time it is perfectly correct not to involve the military in formulating the understandings relating to extremely sensitive and controversial political discussions within the Israeli political establishment. Consequently I do not criticize this decision, which in retrospect seems completely justified.

[DAVAR] Referring to the agreement itself, is it not easier for the IDF to be deployed outside Gaza than inside it?

[Baraq] The IDF will be deployed wherever the Israeli Government calls on it to be deployed.

[DAVAR] What will happen when we withdraw from Gaza?

[Baraq] This agreement does not include a withdrawal from Gaza. It includes a redeployment within the Gaza Strip aimed at fulfilling several missions: Defending our borders from external threats; securing the settlements, and ensuring Israeli activity and freedom of movement everywhere.

This requires a redeployment outside the cities in order to minimize friction and enable the Palestinian police do their part—and they has a very significant part to play. The agreement is based on the assumption that the Palestinian police will be efficient and will strive to attain the common objective, even if there is no practical cooperation on the ground.

[DAVAR] Is it possible that the powerful IDF, which can defend Israel in war, will find it hard to defend it in times of peace?

[Baraq] The IDF will defend Israel's security against any external enemy and any internal threats with which it is ordered to deal. This is self-evident. We know how to accomplish this and will do so. The new, post-agreement situation is different from the war against the intifadah which we have been waging for years. An example in point is the issue of safeguarding the traffic axis. Today we are accomplishing this by a relentless and ceaseless war against fugitives and terrorists on the ground, with the cooperation of the Shin Bet, and the special undercover units. It will be difficult to implement these operations—which greatly curtail the activities of the fugitives—under the conditions of autonomy. This does not mean that no one will try to do this. I assume that the Palestinian police will try to accomplish some of these things. We know, however, how long it takes to reach proficiency in these matters, what level of alertness, determination and willpower is required. There will also be a sharp confrontation within Palestinian society between the moderates and Muslim fundamentalists. They will have to devote part of their energy to this.

I want to reiterate, however, that we are not withdrawing from the Gaza Strip and will be wherever necessary to carry out our mission. It is possible, however, that the implementation will be difficult and complicated. This is the truth and we must be explicit about it.

[DAVAR] Nevertheless, how will you deal with a terrorist attack against Israelis in the Gaza strip?

[Baraq] The agreement was signed today, and it will go into effect in another month. During this month we will consolidate our position regarding the various points, including how to chase fugitives or how to implement preemptive measures. After that we will have three more months of negotiations. It is inadvisable to describe what will happen, because some of it will only be decided in future negotiations.

[DAVAR] The IDF established 14 teams to deal with this issue. Can you give us any details?

[Baraq] The teams are dealing with all the relevant issues. There is a supreme steering committee headed by the chief of the IDF Planning Branch. Committees were set up to examine the ramifications of the agreement; to formulate operational concepts, information policy, and operational plans; to examine intelligence frameworks for the redeployment; and to redeploy units and update operational working plans and organizational working plans to meet the changes. Other committees will deal with formulating a logistic plan aimed at meeting the new situation and the redeployment requirements, with formulating a new policy regarding intifadah detainees, and so forth. It is possible that even more committees will be established.

[DAVAR] Will you be able to complete all the work in one month?

[Baraq] We will complete everything necessary for the negotiations in order to be able to present it for the political echelon's approval. Other issues, which do not have to be finalized by the first day of negotiations, will be formulated during the first month of the negotiations. I am convinced that due to our great experience and familiarity with the situation, both in terms of operational activity and organization, we will enter the negotiations in a much better position than the other side.

[DAVAR] Do you know with whom will you work on the other side?

[Baraq] We do not know their personal identity. I assume that we will sit with PLO representatives, most of them from the territories. Some, however, might come from abroad.

[DAVAR] Will they be prepared?

[Baraq] I am sure they will work hard. It is possible that they will not be completely prepared on all issues, in which case they could ask for more time, to prolong the discussions or to delay them. Since it takes two to tango, we will acquiesce.

[DAVAR] The partner for the tango is the Palestinian police. Do you think that the IDF will be able to cooperate with this police force?

[Baraq] I am convinced that some kind of cooperation will be required. Time will tell whether this will merely be a cooperation in terms of common targets, which the two sides will strive to attain independently, or whether there will be joint patrols on certain roads. This depends on the details of the negotiations and the effectiveness of their police force.

[DAVAR] Will it be possible to allocate more forces for securing the Gaza Strip and Jericho area settlements once most IDF forces are withdrawn from the Gaza Strip?

[Baraq] I do not know. It is too early to tell. I think that within the settlements there is security at the present time as well. It is possible that in the future there will be more IDF presence in the field, and we will implement measures aimed at providing better isolation for settlers from the surrounding environment. Along the traffic axis, we will have a complicated problem. The necessary solution is not merely technical in nature. The present stage of the interim arrangements, however, includes certain advantages stemming from the structure and deployment of the settlements. The Qatif bloc, for example, is an isolated unit with a separate exit to Israel.

The settlements in the northern part of the Gaza Strip are territorially linked with Israel, with Netzarim and Kfar Darom located in the middle of this territory. We will have to implement measures aimed at safeguarding their freedom of travel. We will also have to aid any Israeli who will want to travel in the Gaza Strip. We will have to protect any Israeli coming to buy or sell or do anything else.

[DAVAR] Do you think that Israelis will be able to continue to travel from Bet She'an to Jerusalem through the Jordan Valley and Jericho?

[Baraq] There is no doubt that anyone who wants to will be able to pass through Jericho. If he would prefer, he will be able to use the Alon road. In the future, I assume he will be able to use the bypass road, which will be paved east of Jericho for those who prefer to not to enter the city.

[DAVAR] Minister Shahal said he raised the idea with you of replacing the soldiers dealing with the intifadah with policemen.

[Baraq] Israeli policemen?

[DAVAR] Yes.

[Baraq] We have been waiting for a reinforcement of Israeli policemen for a long time, but none have arrived. I am not familiar with the details of this proposal, but if the police minister raised such a proposal I assume it will be discussed and an appropriate decision will be made. At the moment, we are operating under the assumption that the IDF is operationally and legally responsible for Israel in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[DAVAR] Yesterday four Israelis were murdered in two separate attacks. Today the prime minister shook the hand of Yasir 'Arafat. The public is asking what kind of peace this is.

[Baraq] The emerging arrangement has many enemies within the enemy camp. They have made many attempts in the past and have scored occasional successes, and unfortunately they were successful yesterday. We will strive to minimize their successes. We will do everything possible to apprehend the perpetrators of the attack, with whose identity we are familiar.

[DAVAR] Are you prepared for the possibility that in the north, too, there will be elements who oppose the agreement and who will attempt to carry out attacks?

[Baraq] We do not think that Hizballah will curb its activity as a result of these agreements. Perhaps it will even increase its operations as an expression of the dissatisfaction of its patrons. I expect the organizations under 'Arafat's control to completely end their activity, but the rejectionist organizations, those headed by Habash, Hawatimah, or Jibril might continue their attacks. We will continue to strike them whenever and wherever we deem appropriate.

[DAVAR] Did Operation Accountability achieve its aims?

[Baraq] I believe it did so very well. On the eve of the operation the terrorists tried to limit and curtail our operations. Whenever we attacked a Hizballah target, no matter where it was located, they retaliated by firing Katyushas at our northern settlements. Now whenever they want to fire Katyushas at Galilee they will recall how Israel might retaliate. In my opinion, they will think twice.

[DAVAR] Israel has also moderated the force of its reaction in the wake of the operation.

[Baraq] We try not to direct fire toward villages when there are no clear indications that the fire was directed from within the villages. This is partly the result of the understandings achieved following the operation, but also because we realize that after this massive show of force aimed at preserving our vital security needs—which went beyond the expectations of the other side—it is somewhat ludicrous to bomb a single village when there is no clear source of fire.

I think that Operation Accountability demonstrated the effectiveness of something that earlier seemed like a wild dream—how it is possible to activate a chain reaction starting from the local population and eventually make those in power realize they too stand to lose something if the Katyushas continue to land in Galilee.

This realization, whether by the local population, the political patrons, or the Lebanese or Syrian Governments, can slow down the return to the previous situation.

[DAVAR] What is the other thing you mentioned?

[Baraq] Hizballah suffered a heavy blow. They had some 30 or 40 casualties and between 60 and 80 wounded. This is quite a sharp blow for an organization that numbers 700 fighters. Beyond this, however, they learned that we can use our firepower very efficiently and accurately. This awareness, that our firepower can hit wherever we aim and wherever necessary, has a strong impact on Hizballah, in the sense that they will know how they can harm themselves by deviating from the understandings. Moreover, I believe that Lebanon and Syria are also aware of this.

These things are significant in terms of the developments on the ground, serving as a message to those in power in Lebanon that we will show no hesitation regarding whatever relates to our vital security interests, especially on the eve of potential political developments. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] It seems that over the last year no terror squad tried to infiltrate Israel from the north and that most of the attacks in this area were carried out against the security forces.

[Baraq] It is not that they have not tried, they have simply failed. In most of the cases, however, the terrorists correctly estimated that they stood little chances of

penetrating and that they would probably be killed on the way, therefore they did not try.

[DAVAR] Is it not preferable to withdraw from the security zone and let Syria do what it has always said it would do, namely, impose order after we withdraw?

[Baraq] Any change in the situation can only be based on providing an reasonable substitute to the security zone. It is well known that we have absolutely no territorial claims in Lebanon. The security zone exists only because hostile activity is perpetrated from beyond it by Hizballah and hostile Palestinian organizations. I suppose that had the Lebanese Government taken things into its hands and done there what it has done elsewhere, a withdrawal would have been relevant, seeing that this is the most efficient government in Lebanon in the last 11 years. With Syrian backing—not physical, but rather political, and by limiting supply traffic in the al-Biqa'—the Lebanese Government could have disarmed Hizballah, thereby achieving several months of calm. In that case, there would have been room to deal—in the context of an overall arrangement with Lebanon—with a withdrawal from the security zone. Obviously we would have to make sure that the citizens living there would not be harmed as a result of being members of this canton and on condition that SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers would be able to join the Lebanese security forces. In the context of an overall arrangement, this problem can be solved.

On the other hand, if they expect us to withdraw and trust them to control the area, while our northern settlements remain hostage to the Lebanese Army's ability to curb Hizballah or the Palestinians, this does not seem reasonable to us. [passage omitted]

[DAVAR] We are on the eve of the new year. What was the IDF's greatest achievement in the previous year?

[Baraq] There is no single outstanding achievement. I think that the main achievements were: One, the struggle against the fugitives. Over the last year and a half, we have scored extraordinary professional and operational achievements both in Judaea and Samaria and in the Gaza Strip. I want to point out the performance of the Shin Bet, the undercover units, and other special units. Since the closure started, we apprehended more than 230 fugitives. More than 20 were killed, and others escaped or gave themselves up. This is very significant success.

The other success is in terms of stabilizing the security zone in south Lebanon. The changing situation in Lebanon poses new threats in the security zone of a kind that we have not known before, both on the technical and tactical levels and also in terms of subversiveness arising from the strengthening of the Lebanese regime. At the center of our struggle stood Operation Accountability, which in my opinion attested to our judicious use of force.

The third thing to which I attribute great importance is a reduction in casualties in various types of accidents. This is one of the most significant achievements, mainly if we manage to turn it into a long-term situation. I also attribute great significance to our adhering to several long-term projects, realizing that unless we pursue them we stand to lose our investments. I am referring to preparing for the future battlefield, both in terms of weapons and organizing our forces for battle. For obvious reasons, I will not go into detail.

Lastly, the closure of the territories also constitutes a significant achievement.

[DAVAR] What was the greatest failure of the previous year?

[Baraq] I do not think there were any failures. There are some things I would not call failures, but rather the price of a complicated situation. We paid a dear price in terms of work load on our manpower, especially those dealing with routine security in the territories. Some harm was also done to regular training programs.

[DAVAR] What are the main targets for the next year?

[Baraq] Next year we will have to deal with the situation resulting from the interim arrangement in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and perhaps other arrangements.

[DAVAR] Perhaps with Jordan?

[Baraq] There is a great potential for achieving an arrangement with Jordan in the near future, and I believe that within the next few months we will know whether we are on the verge of a political breakthrough with Syria and Lebanon. We are now in the midst of what I once termed a countdown—even if it will be a very long one—toward a large-scale confrontation if the political moves fail. We are prepared, however, to provide the best possible answers to every situation that will result from the decisions of the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Discusses Jordan-Israeli Agenda

NC1609115493 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd- al-Salam al-Majali, in Amman, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] The first question must concern the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. Let us discuss some details about the agreement's content.

[Al-Majali] The agreement has three main sections: The first concerns the goal, the second the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, and the third the expectations at the end of these negotiations. We believe in a comprehensive solution that involves all the parties—Lebanon, Syria, the Palestinians, and Jordan. We seek a comprehensive rather than a separate solution.

Jordan insists on basic issues. Jordanian land is occupied, there are infringements on our water rights, and we host the largest number of refugees. We constantly fear eviction, especially as we have experience in that field. We want to ensure that we will not be subjected to aggression. These are the basic issues we included on the agenda. The necessary documentation has been prepared to negotiate these issues.

We also believe that solving all these problems is a prerequisite of a peace treaty.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe there is a strong connection, in terms of timing, between the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement?

[Al-Majali] There is no organic link. We reached the agenda during the seventh round. Only linguistic points remained outstanding. But we announced we could not progress further because the other tracks were still stationary. We told the world we believed in comprehensive peace and, accordingly, we could not progress further until other tracks—especially the Palestinian, since the Palestinian issue is the core of the entire conflict—make the required progress. This happened on Monday, when progress was made along the Palestinian track. That is why we announced the agenda was complete and that it took the form announced.

[Al-Jundi] As a Jordanian negotiator in the first place—you chaired the Jordanian delegation to the talks with Israel over several rounds—do you believe the Israeli Government has developed a new vision concerning negotiations with the Arab side?

[Al-Majali] I believe the Israeli people and leadership are inclined to work seriously for peace. We clearly sensed this. We hope this will continue and be enhanced by practical steps and further agreements at the negotiating table along the various tracks, particularly the Syrian and Lebanese.

[Al-Jundi] After mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel, the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and the conclusion of the joint agenda by the Jordanian and Israeli sides, can we say that Jordan will contemplate diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv in the next few days?

[Al-Majali] Absolutely not. This can only be done when all the issues are resolved and negotiations are concluded. To open embassies just because you reach an agenda would be very odd. Normal relations can only be restored when all the problems are solved. The word "normal" means there are no problems. There are big problems: Our land is occupied, our water is being taken, and the refugees issue remains unresolved. These are basic issues. How can we establish diplomatic ties when these issues remain unresolved?

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe normalization can help to push negotiations ahead?

[Al-Majali] I don't think so. I believe this will delay a basic solution of these fundamental issues. This is an Israeli theory; it believes that this type of normalization—establishing telecommunication links, tourism, and things of that sort—can make negotiations proceed more easily. I don't share this view. I believe these things must go hand in hand, so that they are discussed and particular results are achieved. Then, a decision can be reached.

[Al-Jundi] After the Palestinian self-government is applied in Gaza and Jericho, how eager will Jordan be to establish a confederation with the Palestinians?

[Al-Majali] We don't believe in coercion; we don't believe in dragging others by force. This issue involves the Jordanians and the Palestinians. We are still waiting for the Palestinian state to be proclaimed and for the Palestinians to exercise self- determination. If they decide to establish such relations, we will discuss the issue with the Jordanian people. The issue involves two parties. You can't establish a confederation under the circumstances or before the Palestinians determine their own fate.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you Dr. al-Majali.

[Al-Majali] Thank you.

Prince Hasan on Peace Process, Cooperation

PM1509141093 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 13 Sep 93 p 4

[Report on interview with Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan by Cordelia Edvardsson in Amman; no date given]

[Text] Amman—If I am not entirely mistaken, Crown Prince Hasan of Jordan will eagerly follow the television broadcasts today, Monday, from the White House in Washington. When PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin have signed the agreement (if it is these two who sign it) the crown prince

will exclaim: "At last! Now it is time for us in Jordan to put our house in order. Now we can write our agreement with the Israelis."

When SVENSKA DAGBLADET met the prince last week he was, as always during his brother the king's many foreign trips, Jordan's regent. The atmosphere at the royal palace can best be described as a mixture of irritation and relief.

As in past interviews I have conducted with him, the crown prince is a plump and friendly man with a ready laugh; his criticism of the PLO's and 'Arafat's way of going behind Jordan's back is therefore mild, but clear.

"Of course," he said, "it is obvious that there has been a breach of the much vaunted Arab coordination of the negotiations with Israel." But, taking a somewhat cynical view, we probably have to accept that "cooperation" in internal Arab politics has always been a pretty empty phrase. Especially since the Gulf crisis.

However, Crown Prince Hasan cannot refrain from pointing out that Jordan in particular had a right to expect something better from the Palestinians.

"I think that Jordan can take a good deal of the credit. We have provided the umbrella that made it possible for the PLO to take part, behind the scenes, in the Madrid negotiations."

As is well known, the Israeli government at the time made its participation in the Madrid negotiations conditional on the Palestinians' being part of a Jordanian delegation. This fiction was abandoned fairly rapidly, but if Jordan had not made its "umbrella" available there may perhaps have been no negotiations.

As a result of the fact that the Palestinians are now being given self-rule in a clearly defined area, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the thesis that "Jordan is Palestine" that has been pushed by certain right-wing Israeli politicians will be killed off, Crown Prince Hasan stressed with great relief. Jordan is Jordan and Palestine is, or will be, Palestine.

The crown prince also produced a complicated argument to demonstrate that Jordan and Jordanian interests cannot be left out of the picture entirely. It is true that Jordan severed its legal ties with the West Bank in 1988, but as long as there is no Palestinian state—merely self-rule—sovereignty over the area still lies with Jordan, in Crown Prince Hasan's view.

Because of this there are a number of question marks attached to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement. It is, for example, unreasonable to leave it to the Palestinians and the Israelis to decide the future status of Jerusalem, the crown prince pointed out. Its status is of importance to millions of Muslims and Christians throughout the world. Other important areas where Jordan wants some say in the matter is the fate of the Palestinian refugees. In 1948, 1967, and most recently in 1991, after the Gulf war, Jordan had to accept one major wave of refugees after another.

Many people fear that the Gaza-Jericho project could fail. In the Gaza Strip there is a risk of bloody clashes between different Palestinian groups, which at worst could degenerate into a civil war. In such circumstances Jordan could expect a new wave of Palestinian refugees trying to get from Gaza, via Jericho, across the Allenby bridge into Jordan.

"No," Crown Prince Hasan replied, "that will not happen. We cannot continue the open door policy and embrace each and ever person" (seeking refuge in Jordan).

Behind closed doors the Jordanian prime minister has already made it clear that Jordanian troops would not hesitate to fire if Palestinian refugees were to try to "storm" the bridge.

Now that the politics of the Middle East are to be reorganized with the help of major international economic assistance, a Middle Eastern Marshall plan, it would be fatal if Jordan were to be forgotten in this context, Crown Prince Hasan hinted. He does not think that the economic aid now being promised is being given for humanitarian reasons.

"No, the reason is that donor countries have at last understood that economic desperation, together with political desperation, makes fertile soil for (Islamic) extremism," the crown prince explained.

But major international economic assistance can only bear fruit, however, if there is political/economic cooperation in the region.

"I have been preaching this truth for years," Crown Prince Hasan said. "At a minimum, cooperation should embrace Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and ideally Turkey too. And finally also Israel and Palestine. As things are now, we still have trade barriers between us and our Arab neighbors. Perhaps we should meet with the Saudis in Norway," he suggested, laughing louldly.

However, it is a fact that Jordanians, Israelis, and Palestinians are the peoples of the region who have most in common when it comes to modern economic thinking, technological development, and so on. Why not join forces, when cooperation with the Arabs is so bumpy?

"Because not everyone thinks like you," the crown prince replied. "But in the end there will probably be a mixture of the two proposals." (Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli economic cooperation and wider Jordanian-Arab cooperation.) "It must be so," the crown prince said.

"The world has its own agenda," he said. "It will not wait patiently while we strike up our traditional rhetoric. If we (here in the region) cannot pull ourselves together, it will tell us to go and get lost."

However, Jordan now seems to have decided to take its fate in its own competent hands. A start is being made by moving up the negotiations with Israel into top gear—now that Jordan no longer has its hands tied out of regard for the interests of others.

Political Reaction to Agenda With Israel Noted

JN1609083993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16-17 Sep 93 p 10

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Text] Amman—Pro-establishment Jordanian political parties Wednesday welcomed Tuesday's signing of an agenda setting out the principles for a peace agreement between Jordan and Israel, but Muslim fundamentalist groups and leftists criticised it.

The fundamentalists and leftists, however, appeared to reserve harsher criticism for the autonomy agreement signed Monday between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

While expressing "extreme grief" at the signing of the Jordanian- Israeli peace agenda, the Islamic Action Front, the political arm of the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, pledged to mobilise the "Islamic Nation" against the PLO-Israel deal.

"We demand that the Jordanian government not recognise the occupying entity...," IAF Secretary-General Ishaq al-Farhan told a press conference.

"We call upon the Jordanian people to unite to fight the Zionist project and the effects of normalising relations with it," he read from a prepared statement.

Dr. al-Farhan also criticised what he called government for suppression of the opposition and detention of a number of young men who staged protests and sit-ins and said "in times of democracy, the government should not act in this manner." He did not give a specific number of those detained. Nor did he say where or when the protests took place.

"We oppose the whole peace process and the principle of negotiating with it... and we have prepared a political agenda which includes escalating the opposition and mobilising the nation into jihad (holy war)," said Dr. al-Farhan, a member of the appointed Upper House of Parliament.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), in a strongly worded statement Wednesday blasted both agreements, accusing PLO Chairman 'Arafat of "betraying the Palestinian people and the move as a "stab in the heart of the uprising."

'Azmi Khawajah, member of the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, expressed his party's rejection of the two agreements saying "it is a step towards liquidating the Palestinian based on Israeli and American terms which will eventually open up the Arab markets to Israeli goods and investment."

The Jordan People's Democratic Party also rejected the Israeli-Jordanian agenda, arguing that "it threatens Jordan's peace, sovereignty and interests and a renunication of Jordan's official stand vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause."

The head of the nationalist party al-'Ahd, 'Abd-al-Hadi al- Majali, welcomed the move.

"This is a good step ... it states Jordan's concerns and needs and ends the idea of Jordan's concerns and needs and ends the idea of Jordan as the alternative Palestinian homeland," Dr. al-Majali was quoted by Reuters.

"The agenda is a step in the right direction after Israel and the PLO reached their accord," Mujhim Khurayshah, hea dof the Jordanian National Front, told Reuters.

Signing of Agenda 'Logical' Step

JN1509112693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Sep 93 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Signing the Declaration of Principles"]

[Text] After postponing the signing of the agenda of negotiations with the Israeli side for several months, awaiting substantive progress on the other tracks of Arab-Israeli negotiations, Jordan yesterday signed this agenda in order to pave the way for a peace treaty with Israel.

We do not want to consider this agreement, which was ready to be signed a long time ago, a historic event or a giant step, or attach any of the other descriptions that are common these days. This is especially so since this agreement was expected and feasible. Indeed, it is completely in line with the bases of the negotiations that were laid down in Madrid 23 months ago.

Moreover, after this great progress, if not to say radical change on the Palestinian-Israel negotiating track, and now that the climate is totally conducive to more agreements with Israel, the signing of the agenda yesterday comes as another link in a long chain of similar agreements expected to be signed with the other Arab parties.

Hence, we now have a defined agenda of negotiations in order to organize the course of bilateral negotiations with the Israeli side. This will enable us to work step by step on each provision defined in the agenda in order to redraw Jordan's international borders and restore our national rights, including our right to water, which for years Israel has continued to plunder, and therefore solve all our existing problems with the Israeli side.

As for the issues of peace, coexistence, cooperation, good neighborliness and whatever else is required at this stage of life in the Middle East, Jordan will continue to withhold its approval of all these bilateral issues until the Israeli side agrees on all the basic principles of peace desired by the peoples of this region.

The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda of negotiations, which will pave the way for a peace treaty with Israel, comes today as a logical step commensurate with the agreement on a Palestinian- Israeli declaration of principles. Indeed, it is a step that complements this declaration, which seems to have opened the door wide to signing similar agreements on the other negotiating tracks and created the appropriate climate to achieve the long-awaited peace in the Middle East.

IAF Rejects Agenda Agreement

JN1509190893 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] The Islamic Action Front [IAF] has rejected the Jordanian-Israeli agreement on the agenda of the bilateral talks, calling it a separate peace treaty. Meanwhile, Jordanian newspapers welcomed this declaration and viewed it as a great stride on the road of peace.

At a news conference, Islamic Action Front Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan said the signing of the so-called agenda with the enemy contributes to entrenching the legitimacy of the Zionist existence and paves the way for recognizing it. After noting that the Islamic Action Front, which is the biggest political party in the Kingdom, was agonized by the Jordanian Government's action, al- Farhan called on the government not to slip into what others have slipped into, in reference to the signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement.

On the popular level, there have been no signs of opposition to or demonstrations against the agreement. Prime Minister 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali said the agreement does not constitute a breakthrough, but is a general framework of issues which will be discussed at the negotiations.

Muslim Clerics Issue Fatwa Against PLO-Israel Accord

JN1609121193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Sep 93 p 19

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Fifteen clerics in Jordan have issued a fatwa [religious ruling] in which they declared that the autonomy agreement, the Gaza-Jericho First project, between Israel and the PLO is null and void and a religious taboo.

The fatwa defines the Islamic shari'ah position on this project and says that the project openly calls for canceling jihad and banning it against the Jews in order to expel them from the land that they have occupied, and recognizing Jewish sovereignty over the Islamic territory of Palestine. The fatwa says that the project eliminates Jerusalem from Islamic sovereignty and prevents the formation a fighting army for the Muslims in the autonomy. To accept this is religiously forbidden, the fatwa said, adding that the Gaza-Jericho project is established only on 1.5 percent of the Palestinian territories, ignoring the other 98.5 percent.

The Islamic fatwa was issued by Dr. Muhammad Abu Faris, Dr. Hammam Sa'id [members of the outgoing House of Representatives], Muhammad 'Amr, Dr. Salah al-Khalidi, Dr. Muhammad 'Uwaydah, Dr. 'Arif Abu-'Id, Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani, Dr. 'Ali Muhammad Yasin, Dr. Hamad Farid, Dr. Yasin al-Daradikah, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Hurayz, Dr. Muhib al-Hisan, Dr. Muhammad Yasin, Dr. Ahmad Nawfal, and Dr. Bassam al-'Umush.

U.S. Delegation Meets Chamber of Industry Officials

JN1209100593 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] The U.S. delegation charged with studying the damage to the Jordanian economy as a result of the siege imposed on Iraq, held talks today at the Amman Chamber of Industry. More details in our correspondent's report:

[Begin recording] [Reporter Nizar al-Disi] The officials in the Amman Chamber of Industry presented a paper concerning the damage caused to the industrial sector and the additional costs incurred by Jordanian industry as a result of the siege imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah, in addition to the losses inflicted on the Jordanian economy and exports as a result of the closure of the markets of Iraq, Kuwait, and other Gulf states to Jordanian products.

['Imad al-Shamma', member of the Amman Chamber of Industry] In this paper, we explained the extent of damage to Jordanian industry in particular and the Jordanian economy in general. We proved through figures that Jordanian industry has lost more than 300 million Jordanian dinars annually as a result of the siege on Iraq. We explained that in the Port of al-'Aqabah, which represents Jordan's lifeline, there are no ships to carry exports. Both imports and exports have been affected. The Jordanian trader or industrialist cannot export his goods because there are not enough ships. We explained that the Jordanian economy is a nascent economy, that industries have been built over a period of 10 years, and that there has been some sort of integration between these industries and the Iraqi economy. Suddenly, these relations were severed. The Jordanian industries were forced to look for other markets. Some industries succeeded and started to export to Europe, but exportation now is costly because the ships do not come. How can I export if there are no ships?

[Head of U.S. delegation David Newton, in English] We have collected a great deal of useful information. We had a chance to exchange ideas which we can take then back to Washington to discuss with people. And then, of course, in the context of the United Nations, look for ways that we can be helpful to you. [end recording]

Columnist Criticizes Visit

JN1509145493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Sep 93 p 28

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Fact-Finding Mission"]

[Text] There was no need for the United States to send a fact- finding mission on a grand visit to Jordan to learn about the economic losses Jordan has sustained as a result of the blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah, and on our eastern borders with Iraq. The U.S. Embassy is well aware of all the facts, which are faxed daily.

As for Jordanian exporters, who manufacture neither missiles, tanks or aircraft spare parts, they wait for months to obtain U.S. approval to export gas ovens and refrigerators. Such approvals are granted or denied in New York, where the United Nations is headquartered.

The Americans, who are the sole legitimate representative of the United Nations, have met with Jordanian Government officials, as well as officials of the Chamber of Industry and and the Chamber of Commerce. They have visited the Industrial City to study the impact of the blockade clamped on Jordan, although they are already aware of this, particularly since their ambassador met with officials, held talks with them, and visited and toured to study this. So, why this "honoring" of our country by a delegation visit?

We will publish the glad tidings today. Washington has decided to mitigate the severity of the blockade clamped on us after we set foot down the path of peace. Still, the blockade will be lifted entirely only when we are brought to our knees in the peace process. As for the talk of compliance with UN and UN Security Council resolutions, this has nothing to do with the liberation of Kuwait, or with the protection of Gulf security, for that matter. It is only meant to intimidate Jordanians, particularly since they have exercised their right to oppose the U.S. military hegemony in the Gulf as well as the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance. Democracy in Jordan is the evil that is producing the blockade imposed on the Port of al-'Aqabah, on our eastern borders with Iraq, and on our southern borders with the Gulf states. Jordanians are meant to pay a price for this stand from their hard-earned livelihood.

The United States, the sole legitimate representative of the United Nations, is well aware that all Jordanian products and all Jordanian exports to Iraq are exempted from the UN sanctions imposed on this fraternal country. However, what the United States is doing is meant to twist the arms of Jordanian laymen and discipline them, although the Jordanian Government is complying with all UN resolutions, and is willing to comply with any future resolutions that might be issued in this regard.

We will never forget the statement U.S. President Bush made when he heard of demonstrations in Amman on the day the Gulf war cease- fire came into effect. On that day, Bush said: Have not these people heard or seen what has happened so far?

When he made this statement, U.S. President Bush was wondering how the Amman population dared to take to the streets to condemn the massacre he committed in Iraq, and to denounce the occupation of the Arabian Gulf by force. Jordanians' pan-Arab sentiments were meant to be killed. It was calculated that fear and frustration would tame Jordanians, and that they would be so panicky that they would thank God because Washington had spared them and allowed them to survive, breathe, eat, love their children, and have roofs to sleep under.

The blockade clamped on Jordan is not designed to ensure compliance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, but, instead, to bring about the obedience of Jordanian nationalists.

The U.S. delegation will recommend the mitigation of the blockade. However, in the course of its exploratory mission, we would like the U.S. delegation to write the following in its report:

"Despite all these sanctions, Jordanians have continued to honor their pledge. Their hearts know no fear. They have continued to oppose the Iraq massacre, the occupation of Kuwait, and the strategic U.S.-Israeli alliance."

Information, Industry Ministers Meet Cuban Official

JN1109200093 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] At his office today, Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu- Nuwar received Pedro Prieto Miret, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers [title as heard], special envoy of President Fidel Castro, and member of the Cuban Council of State, and the delegation accompanying him. They discussed future cooperation between Jordan and Cuba. The Cuban delegation head stressed his country's eagerness to open new channels of relations with Jordan to bolster cooperation between the Cuban and Jordanian peoples.

The delegation explained the latest political and economic developments in Cuba, and the Cuban leadership's concepts of its bilateral, Arab, and international relations.

Dr. Abu-Nuwar stressed Jordan's firm principles promoting cooperation with friendly states and building understanding and confidence with these states' peoples and the international community in all areas, in the interest of the Jordanian people.

The head of the Cuban delegation voiced his thanks to and his great appreciation for the warm reception Jordan accorded him on all levels. He stressed this indicates the Jordanian people's desire to bolster relations with friendly peoples who also want to promote their relations with Jordan.

In a statement to a Jordanian News Agency correspondent, the Cuban delegation head described his meeting with the information minister as very positive. He praised the results of his talks in Amman. He said: These talks proved Jordan's eagerness to promote its relations with Cuba, especially economic relations, as well as the need to coordinate the two countries' positions in international circles.

Industry and Trade Minister Bassam al-Sakit also met with the vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers today. At the beginning of the meeting, Dr. al-Sakit stressed Jordan's eagerness to enhance its economic and trade relations with friendly countries, pointing to the importance of building cooperative relations between the two countries, especially since we live in a world of many interests that may conflict with one another. The minister urged the Jordanian and Cuban chambers of industry to hold contacts to explore the possibilities of mutual cooperation between the two countries, implementing joint investment projects, and exchanging goods, particularly raw sugar and drugs.

Cuban Official On Ties

JN1209065893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Sep 93

[Text] Raul Pafaya, director of the Middle East Desk at the Cuban Foreign Ministry [name and title as heard], the official spokesman for the Cuban delegation, described the results of the Cuban-Jordanian talks, which concluded in Amman this evening, as very positive. He said the talks realized their political and economic objectives of fostering bilateral cooperation and coordinating positions at international organizations.

Answering a question posed by the Jordanian News Agency at a news conference held tonight at the end of the Cuban delegation's four- day visit to Amman, Pafaya said that the Cuban vice president of the council of ministers, who heads the delegation, has conveyed a message to His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, addressed to His Majesty King Husayn, dealing with Cuba's desire to develop bilateral cooperation with Jordan in the political and economic fields.

The delegation also met with a number of Jordanian officials in the public and private sectors. He said the strength of Jordanian- Cuban relations is derived from the historic friendly relations between His Majesty King Husayn and President Castro, and the full support Cuba extends to Arab causes, led by the Palestine question, and its total support for the Palestinians in their just struggle toward implementing all international resolutions and to attain their legitimate rights, including their right to self- determination.

He said the delegation has extended an official invitation to the Jordanian Government and the private sector to participate in the Havana International Fair, to be held at the end of October, and to send Jordanian delegations to attend an international confer.nce for businessmen in Latin America, which will be held in Havana on 28 September to discuss the scope of Arab-Cuban cooperation in the economic field.

He emphasized that his country welcomes Jordanian businessmen and Jordanian exports and investments in Cuba.

Asked about Cuba's position on the latest developments in the peace process, the official spokesman for the Cuban delegation said: We support the PLO, and we were the first to recognize the State of Palestine. We are with the Palestinian leadership's policy in adopting the position that it believes realizes the Palestinian people's interests through full implementation of international resolutions.

Sudanese Interior Minister Departs Amman 14 Sep

JN1409150793 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] Sudanese Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn left Amman today at the end of a short visit to Jordan during which he met with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and handed him a letter for his majesty the king from Sudanese leader Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir.

The talks between the Sudanese interior minister and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan dealt with issues of joint interest and the general Arab situation and the implications of the peace process in light of recent developments. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to develop them. The Sudanese interior minister also confered with his Jordanian counterpart Salamah Hammad on relations between Jordan and Sudan.

Minister Confers With Chilean Official on Peace, Ties

JN1209132393 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 12 Sep 93

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal al-Hasan has received visiting Chilean Foreign Ministry Ardiru Diaz [name and title as heard].

Talks covered the ongoing Middle East peace process as well as bilateral relations, and means to bolster them.

Mr. al-Hasan stressed Jordan's firm commitment to the peace process based on constant support of the Palestinian people. He also briefed the Chilean guest on the country's democratic march, political pluralism, and respect of human rights.

For his part, Mr. Diaz valued the ties between Jordan and Chile. He asserted his country's support of implementing the international legitimacy, granting self-determination for the Palestinians and rejecting the acquisition of land by force.

Al-Hirawi Receives Syrian Prime Minister al-Zu'bi

Al-Zu'bi Emphasizes Support for Lebanon

NC1509193893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] At 2015 today President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and the delegation accompanying the Syrian prime minister. President al-Hirawi held a dinner banquet in honor of the Syrian Government's delegation.

The session of talks between the Lebanese and Syrian prime ministers and their delegations ended at about 2000. Prime Minister al-Hariri welcomed Prime Minister al-Zu'bi and his delegation. He said he attached great importance to Lebanese-Syrian meetings at this stage.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi responded with a speech in which he thanked Prime Minister al-Hariri and emphasized that Syria will continue to support Lebanon. He expressed his satisfaction with the situation in Lebanon in terms of security, stability, and the restoration of its effective institutions. Al-Zu'bi affirmed that Syria is a strength to Lebanon and vice versa, and both are a great strength in the face of all challenges.

The Syrian prime minister visited Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri at the Chamber of Deputies building at noon today.

In a statement he made on his arrival at Beirut Airport, the Syrian prime minister expressed his confidence that the process of Lebanese-Syrian cooperation will continue until it achieves its objectives, which will benefit the two countries. He affirmed that Syria will remain a pillar of support for Lebanon.

Al-Zu'bi, al-Hariri Comment on Talks

NC1609104993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpts] The Lebanese-Syrian talks, due to be concluded later today, represent a prominent and advanced steps toward implementing the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination between the two countries because the talks come at a time when solidarity and coordination are absolutely necessary for confronting Middle Eastern developments, including the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

President al-Hirawi hosted a dinner banquet at B'abda Palace in honor of Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his delegation. Prime Minister al-Hariri and several Lebanese ministers attended the banquet.

Earlier, a round of talks was held at the government offices between al-Hariri and al-Zu'bi and the two countries' delegations. Al-Hariri described the talks as excellent. He praised President al-Asad, who continually affirms Syria's commitment to assist Lebanon in surmounting every ordeal and attaining Lebanese aspirations. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Hariri called for implementing the clauses of the treaty of brotherhood, asserting that the ties between the two countries must serve the interests of the citizens and the links between them and must not be restricted merely to ties between individuals.

Al-Hariri announced: We are willing and ready to lay a strong foundation for a relationship which serves the interests of the two countries, particularly under current circumstances.

He added: As a government, we are willing to revise all laws and regulations in a way that facilitates the treaty's implementation. We are ready to cooperate on various projects, particularly as upcoming challenges make it necessary for us to cooperate and coordinate on all matters in detail, not merely in general terms. Joint ventures—including water, electricity, communications, and transportation projects—must be implemented.

Syrian Prime Minister al-Zu'bi expressed his thanks for these sentiments and affirmed that Syria will continue to back Lebanon under all circumstances and will never abandon it.

Al-Zu'bi added: We are meeting and talking following events that exposed the illusions of dreamers and the shortsightedness of doubters and which demonstrated the foresight of the sincere people who shouldered their national and humanitarian burdens. These sincere people had faith that Lebanese-Syrian cooperation would provide a solid hope of rescuing Lebanon and freeing it from the effects of sectarian and tribal strife and the conspiracy against its very existence. [passage omitted]

The Syrian prime minister continued: We will continue to confront the enemy. We will remain together as one nation. We hope that every brother and friend will understand this. Outside appearances that concern others are of no interest to us. We are two states now, but this has not prevented us from remaining one nation whose people fight together, die together, and live together.

The talks lasted from 1730 until 2000 yesterday. At 1900 economic officials joined the meeting. Prior to that, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left the meeting. He said: There are no political plans. The ministries have submitted projects which are being discussed.

Asked to comment on a remark by Dr. Usamah al-Baz [director of the Egyptian president's Office for Political Affairs] that considerable progress has been achieved in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations, Buwayz replied: I believe such talk is premature. No such progress has been put down in writing.

Regarding Israeli Prime Minister Rabin's recent remarks, Buwayz said: We cannot comment on new views every day. So far, nothing has been achieved beyond what took place in the 11th round of talks.

Syrian President Phones al-Hirawi, Egypt's Mubarak

NC1609062893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] The region's peace continues to be the focus of local and Arab contacts and consultations.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi has received a telephone call from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad who also contacted Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Interior Minister Continues Strike Pending Probe

NC1609072393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij returned from Damascus last night after meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam with whom he discussed the current general situation and recent developments. [passage omitted]

The interior minister's office issued the following statement:

To clarify the facts and preclude any speculation, Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij adheres to the position he announced on Monday, 13 September 1993, about withdrawing from his activities at the Interior Ministry pending the results of a full investigation which will determine who is responsible and will clarify the real circumstances of all that has happened. [passage omitted]

Fadlallah Criticizes Government for 'Executions'

NC1609092293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic GMT 0530 16 Sep 93

[Text] Denunciation of Monday's massacre of participants in the procession rejecting the Gaza-Jericho accord continues. Interior Minister Bisharah Mirhij confirmed he is still boycotting cabinet meetings in protest over what happened.

'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that what happened during the demonstration rejecting the Gaza-Jericho accord is a militia-like act of assassination and execution and Lebanon has no right to kill those who are struggling for its freedom. He noted that a state that murders its people is not fit to govern them. He said: We do not want anyone to employ the country's freedom to serve the arrogant at the expense of the oppressed. He called for a self-respecting government, not one that murders its people.

[Begin Fadlallah recording] The state's value lies in serving its people and preserving their blood and respecting their future. The state that murders its people is not fit to govern them. If the state wants to disperse a demonstration, it can use water cannons, tear gas, it can even fire in the air, and if not in the air at the demonstrators' feet. But to execute militia-like activities by firing at demonstrators' heads and chests and by shooting at a woman who comes to the aid of another, dear people, is not the way to break up a demonstration. It is a militia-like executions and assassinations. We are afraid that many (?hateful) militia members went out through the door only to return through a thousand windows to take advantage of this situation.

We do not want sects and provinces, we want the whole of Lebanon, a strong, cohesive, free, honorable, and eminent Lebanon. But we do not believe that this Lebanon has the right to kill those who struggle for its freedom and salvation. [end recording]

Al-Asad, Clinton Confer Over Phone on Peace

JN1509180893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton this afternoon. The talks, during the telephone conversation, dealt with the Middle East peace process and cooperation between the two sides in order to give it momentum.

President Clinton expressed the United States' concern to continue its efforts to make the peace process a success. He also stressed the importance of continuing efforts to achieve success on all tracks, renewing the U.S. commitment to the peace process and to cooperation to overcome obstacles on its path.

President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's continued commitment to the peace process, its concern to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and its readiness for cooperation to achieve this objective.

Al-Hirawi, Mubarak, King Husayn Phone al-Asad

JN1609062293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi last night. During the telephone conversation, talks dealt with the peace process and bilateral issues.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad also received a telephone call from President Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt last night. The talks dealt with current developments.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad also received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan last night. During the telephone conversation, they discussed current developments.

Official Laments 'Arafat 'Begging' at Signing Ceremony

JN1509143593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0805 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Damascus, 15 Sep (SANA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has described the Gaza-Jericho agreement signing ceremony as a White House carnival. The paper said that people saw on television a political tragedy rejoiced in by the entire Western community, expecially the American community.

The paper regretted the scene in which Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, appeared, extending his hand, begging for a handshake with Israeli Prime Minister Rabin, who stood there with his hands crossed. As 'Arafat waited, Rabin just looked at him, until the U.S. President asked Rabin to shake hands with 'Arafat. When he finally responded, Rabin's words were not understood.

In an article today by Fa'iz al-Sa'igh, director general of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, the paper affirms that this picture produces deep and lasting effects in the Arab psyche, which is known to be proud and lofty.

The paper asks: How is it that Rabin and Peres remembered their dead and bragged about their adherence to Jerusalem despite their condemned past, while 'Arafat had no wish or will to recall the Arab and non-Arab martyrs who fell for the sake of Palestine? Having been overwhelmed by a sense of gratitude for the West and the United States, 'Arafat was confused and could not find his tongue.

Thus, he tried to find a way out of that state by offering liberal handshakes with Rabin and Peres.

Syria Said To Try To 'Influence' Palestinian Opposition

LD1409140393 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Sep 93

[Text] If Amman has repeatedly and in all possible forms expressed its belief in the peace option, Damascus still adopts a neutral stance toward the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. It is noteworthy that Syria has earlier announced that it does not oppose the agreement but that it leaves the Palestinians the freedom to decide the issue.

What is new in the Syrian stance has come from Washington, attributed to a senior American official who preferred to remain anonymous. He said that Damascus has emphasized to the United States that it will do everything it can to influence the groups opposing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, particularly the Palestinians stationed in Syria.

Press on 'Continued Commitment' to Peace Process

JN1609090293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Sep 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Only a Just and Comprehensive Peace Endures," the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in its editorial today that Syria has worked honestly, unquestionably, and firmly to promote the peace process. This Syrian approach has remained unchanged, the paper adds.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The words exchanged between U.S. President Bill Clinton and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad during the telephone conversation held yesterday has underscored this. For, his excellency the president has affirmed Syria's continued commitment to the peace process, its concern to achieve just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, as well as its readiness to extend the necessary cooperation to achieve this objective.

AL-BA'TH says: Syria has never set any conditions to peace. All that it is asking for is to ensure that any peaceful settlement of the regional conflict be genuine,

just, and comprehensive, and also grounded in the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the resolutions of international legitimacy. At present, as in the past, Syria is not setting any conditions to peace. It only wants any peaceful settlement to be just and comprehensive. For, unjust peace will only sow the seeds of future conflict and instability.

AL-BA'TH adds: As His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has said, Syria is looking forward to the achievement of the objectives of the peace process, as set forth in the terms of reference of this process. It is committed to the continuation of efforts, work, and cooperation to advance the peace process until it achieves its desired objective.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: President Clinton has renewed the U.S. commitment to advance the peace process and remove the obstacles and difficulties standing in its path. However, this is contingent upon the United States using its influence to make Israel accept the components of just and comprehensive peace. Nobody is questioning the ability of the United States to remove these obstacles and difficulties if it chooses to use its influence to make Israeli rulers comply with the terms of reference of the peace process.

The newspaper TISHRIN also comments on the Middle East peace process and Syria's principled position toward this issue, saying: Syria is committed to the constants governing a just and comprehensive solution, because it is greatly concerned to see the peace process achieve its objectives, which are set forth in the form of documents, pledges, and guarantees. This approach stems from Syria's belief that only a just and comprehensive solution would ensure the success of the peace process. Such a solution would ensure stability, because it would negate injustice, wrongdoing, and coercion. Moreover, such a solution would also negate the policy of forcing established facts on others, as well as the policy of attempting to have both winter and summer in the same place at the same time.

TISHRIN adds: All those concerned with the peace process have realized that Israeli positions constitute difficulties, traps, and obstacles standing in the path of the peace process. The promotion of these positions only means that Israel is still determined to perpetuate the occupation, hold on to the occupied Arab territories, and make the Arabs renounce their rights and concede their territories. At any rate, this can never achieve peace, but will, instead, further complicate the situation and render it more turbulent and tense.

For its part, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on Yitzhaq Rabin's provocative statements which he made in Washington the day before yesterday, indicating that the timing of these statements is highly significant. The paper maintains that these statements are indicative of a serious approach that severely undermines and virtually kills Tel Aviv's credibility with regard to the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that word play and the trite talk about withdrawals on rather than from the Golan will be of no avail to Rabin. This is because, the paper notes, the legitimate Syrian demands are subject to neither differing interpretations, nor to bargaining.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Rabin's new message, which reflects Israel's stubbornness, its flagrant and constant defiance of the resolutions of international legitimacy, as well as its disregard for all principles and conventions, should prompt the international community, the world's peace-loving nations, and the U.S. cosponsor, in particular, to straighten things out and make Israel comply with the terms of reference of the peace process by withdrawing completely from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories.

Afghanistan

Factions Continue Clashes Around Kabul

LD1509183293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Clashes between the forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] and those of the Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan], which began yesterday evening in the eastern suburbs of Kabul and continued untill this morning, have left many casualties and great losses.

According to a report by the Central News Unit from Kabul quoting government sources, during the clashes four areas in the eastern Kabul suburbs came under heavy weapons fire by the the forces of Hezb-e Eslami, and the Afghan Defense Ministry forces also targeted the positions of the Hezb-e Eslami forces.

Another report, quoting foreign correspondents in Kabul, indicates that, at the same time, the forces of Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan] fired on positions of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan] in west Kabul with heavy weaponry.

India

One Dies as Bomb Explodes in Hindu Temple in Kashmir

BK1509155493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Jammu, India, Sept 15 (AFP)—A Hindu pilgrim died when a bomb exploded Wednesday in a temple in the northern Indian state of Kashmir, defence officials said here.

Eight others were injured when the bomb went off in the Hindu temple in the frontier district of Rajouri, a bastion of Moslem militants campaigning for Kashmir's secession from India, they said in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital.

The officials blamed Moslem secessionists for the temple blast. Among those injured in the attack were two soldiers who were evacuated to New Delhi in critical condition.

Dozens of Hindu temples have been damaged or destroyed in rebel attacks in the past in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Commentary Notes Outcome of Rao's ROK Visit

BK1509144993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Commentary by Hari Jai Singh]

[Text] The Indian prime minister Mr. Narasimha Rao's recent visit to South Korea is an epoch-making event on more than one account. In the first place, he was the first Indian prime minister to visit that country since diplomatic relations between the two countries were normalized 20 years ago. This significant fact was not lost sight of by the South Koreans, who received Mr. Rao warmly. More than the warmth, Mr. Rao's presence symbolically raised the level of relations between the two countries. The ties between India and Korea are now in top gear, both politically and economically.

Secondly, the visit has helped to generate mutual appreciation of some of the sensitive political and security issues facing the Korean peninsula, the Pacific region, and Asia as a whole. Thirdly, and this is most crucial, Mr. Rao's historic visit to Seoul underscores New Delhi's recognition of the tremendous importance of South Korea as a new economic power in Asia. Equally crucial, is the increasing stake South Korea seems to have developed in the economic growth of India as a result of the recent liberalization policy of the government of India.

Indeed, Mr. Rao's trip was a very high skillful diplomatic exercise in exploring new avenues of economic cooperation between India and South Korea. During his meeting, Mr. Rao asked Korean businessmen to actively invest in India, saying that the Indian Government has become a member of the multilateral investment guarantee agency to protect foreign investments and that it has also removed various restrictions against companies in which foreigners have shares. He promised to give maximum support to Korean businessmen. The response to Mr. Rao's plea was positive and encouraging.

In fact, looking at the overall response in Seoul, the visit could be termed as a turning point in further cementing of Indo-Korean economic relations. Even South Korean President Kim Yong-sam reportedly remarked that Mr. Rao's visit would pave the way for a new era of cooperation between the two countries. Indeed, the growing political understanding between the two countries would only help in further consolidation of their economic ties.

India and South Korea, of course, are no strangers to each other. (?Trade) has been growing fast between the two countries for quite sometime. Two-way trade in 1992 was $916 million, of which India's share was as high as $478 million. A much larger turnover is expected in the current year. If one has to go by the current trend, the first five months of 1993 have seen a surge in Indo-Korean trade which has jumped to $629 million.

Trade apart, India has understandably been keen on greater Korean investment in India. The present Korean investment in India is roughly $22 million. Now Seoul's investment in India's industry is proposed to go up to $100 million within two years. This is simply remarkable. The two countries are collaborating in as many as 146 projects, including 64 joint projects. A number of Korean firms like Hyundai, Samsung, and Daewoo are

participating in India's infrastructural development program. This Korean participation will go up in a big way in the years to come to enhance all-round cooperation.

The two countries have signed three agreements and memorandum on cooperation in tourism, science and technology, and cultural exchanges. The most promising outcome of Mr. Rao's visit is the distinct possibility of doubling of Indo-South Korea trade from $1 billion to $2 billion in three years. In fact, the democratically elected president, Mr. Kim, has promised to develop South Korean trade with India on the lines of its trade with China which is now worth $10 billion each way.

Significantly, there was now a clear promise on multifold expansion of economic ties between the two countries. As a result of Mr. Rao's Seoul visit, considerable Korean investment is now on the cards in the fields of infrastructure development, such as mega-roads, expressways, modernizing port facilities, shipbuilding, exploration and exploitation of oil, and textiles. It is also clear that Korean businessmen, who have invested over $10 billion in China, are showing new keen interest in India. They have promised to explore new avenues of cooperation with India.

This is a happy augury of building stronger Indo-Korean economic ties which, in turn, would help to consolidate peace and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Iran

Azerbaijan's Aliyev Briefs President on 'Crisis'

LD1509154193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Azerbaijan's President Geydar Aliyev, in a telephone conversation this afternoon with our country's president, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed his appreciation for our country's recent efforts to end the crisis in the Karabakh region and for its humanitarian aid to that country's people and the war refugees in border areas.

During the conversation, the Azeri president briefed Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani about the latest reports on the status of the war-stricken areas of that country and on the talks carried out in Russia. Referring to the fact that Azerbaijan is facing the problem of settling 1 million refugees, he added: Taking into consideration the nearing of the cold season, the [aforementioned] problem will become more acute in the future, and we sincerely thank the Islamic Republic of Iran for looking after the 100,000 refugees in the border regions, and we hope for more assistance from the government and the Muslim and revolutionary people of Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the course of the telephone conversation, said: The hard times that the people of Azerbaijan are going through these days is cause for great concern for the Iranian nation, and we fully understand your difficulties and hope that with the return of tranquility to the region you overcome your difficulties.

Referring to the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran explicitly calls for the war in the Karabakh region to stop, for all occupied areas to be evacuated [of the attacking forces], and Iran will utilize all its resources for the peaceful resolution of the crisis which has been created in the region, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We expect to realize this through the assistance and endeavor of neighboring states. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out: We seek the return of security and stability to the important Central Asian region.

Velayati Receives French Foreign Ministry Official

LD1509172993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] The expansion and improvement of relations between Iran and France formed the main topic of discussion in a meeting today between the secretary-general of France's Foreign Ministry and our country's officials.

Serge Boidevaix, secretary-general of France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is currently in Tehran, met with Mr. ['Ali Akbar] Velayati this afternoon. During the meeting the French official described as constructive his talks with Iranian officials on economic, cultural, and political issues. He also stressed that agreements and understandings between the two countries are a good basis for the expansion of bilateral relations. He expressed hope that effective steps will be taken to improve these relations.

For his part, our foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the present state of French-Iranian relations. He then described the volatile situation in the world, and referred to the fact that nations expect the United Nations to act in a lawful manner in the face of various developments. He said that, unfortunately, due to the influence that some powerful countries exert on the United Nations, there is a double standard in dealing with events in different countries. An example of this is the sad tragedy in Bosnia. Such an attitude is in no way conducive to world peace.

Mr. Velayati added: The rules and methods adopted by the United Nations do not fulfill the present needs of the world.

Furthermore, the secretary-general of France's Foreign Ministry said: In view of present international circumstances, the forthcoming UN General Assembly will be highly important. He then referred to the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and said: The situation in Bosnia is very complicated, and we are watching developments with the utmost concern. He added: France defends the viewpoint which aims to keep Bosnia a member of the United Nations.

Moreover, the two sides exchanged views on important international developments and stressed the need to increase bilateral cooperation, including cooperation in the Persian Gulf, central Asia, the Caucasus, and Afghanistan.

Energy Minister Holds Talks With Russian Ambassador

LD1509154893 Tehran IRNA in English 1329 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—Russian Ambassador to Tehran, Sergey M. Tretyakov, here Wednesday expressed his country's readiness to expand technological and economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a meeting with Minister of Energy Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh, the Russian diplomat raised Moscow's cooperation with Tehran in construction of dam, the combined-cycle power stations and also selling hydraulic generators to Iran.

Zanganeh told the ambassador that his ministry is interested in long-term technological cooperation and transfer of technological know-how to Iran.

Commentary Notes Reactions to Israel-Jordan Agreement

LD1509115393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0953 GMT 15 Sep 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day esteemed listeners. Reactions have differed to the Israel-Jordan agreement which concerns the agenda for bilateral talks which was signed by the heads of these two countries' delegations in Washington yesterday. [passage omitted on the accord]

The Jordanian-Israeli delegation agreed to the agenda about three months ago and prepared it for signing. But internal and external political reactions to it made Jordan decide not to sign it until there was some progress in the compromise talks. For this reason, the signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement on Monday [13 September], the day before yesterday, opened the way for the signing of this agreement. But this, that is, the signing of two agreements with the Israeli regime within the space of one day—in spite of the different nature of their contents—has itself given rise to different reactions and a hue-and-cry.

Israel, America, and other players in the field of compromise, such as Egypt, have described this as an important and fundamental step. Within this same context, Mubarak, head of the Egyptian regime, has sent a congratulatory message to King Husayn of Jordan. It is clear that the aim of these aggrandizements is to drag other parties to the field of surrender and compromise.

In return, Jordan is trying to reduce the importance of the agreement in an effort to prevent the emergence of domestic political difficulties and to make this appear as nothing more than an ordinary, and thus unimportant, action and event. Apart from the endeavors made on both sides to either magnify the importance of the Israeli-Jordan agreement or reduce it to unrealistic levels, political observers believe that the content of the understanding is something more than an agenda and less than a peace agreement.

This confusion in the agenda for talks and mutual commitments in this agreement—notably in the field of security between Jordan and Israel—has provided the compromise camp with the opportunity to define it as a success for itself and count it not as an agenda for talks on compromise but as an agenda for a peace agreement.

In any case, Jordan's reaction and the efforts of its officials to make the signing of this agreement appear insignificant shows that only those persons who are distanced from the center of this crisis and from the Muslim nations of the region and who consider themselves to be out of reach of the flames of these peoples' anger can clap their hands and shout hurray at compromise with the Zionist regime.

Commentary Criticizes Restrictions on Reportage

NC1209125993 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 31 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Events in Society and Methods of Disseminating Information"]

[Text] The mode of disseminating information by our news agencies and mass media has been instrumental in making our public veer toward foreign media and toward accepting their distorted and fallacious analyses.

We have experienced this situation on numerous occasions and have realized its negative and destructive repercussions. Instead of mending our ways, we have time and again continued to tread the same path that has not, and will never, yield any results.

At times, by maintaining silence on events and incidents or by disseminating ambiguous and incomplete reports, we motivate people to seek recourse to foreign news media to satisfy their curiosity. The foreign media, which comprehends these conditions, distorts all correct and incorrect information for the consumption of the Iranian nationals and thus whets their appetite for rumors.

We have repeatedly pointed out this state of affairs: that our international circumstances, the level of our information-disseminating technology, and the speed with which news is propagated are such that even when we seek to provide our people with precise and swift information there are others who preempt us in the process. In view of their immense hostility against the Islamic Revolution and government, and without any plausible reason, they adopt certain destructive and nihilistic tactics.

The Iranian people are the most politically conscious people in the world and are extremely curious. In view of the great sense of responsibility they have toward society, they demand information of all social events, no matter how trivial or unimportant. Therefore, we should behave toward our people in an appropriate manner. It is not harmful to provide the correct information. In fact, it will only serve to enhance their trust in the system and will wean them from foreign media.

The report on the arrest of Engineer 'Abdi, the member of the SALAM editorial board; the summons served to Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha for clarification by the special clerical tribunal; the temporary detention of Mehdi Nasiri, KEYHAN editor in chief; and the report on the indisposition of Ayatollah Montazeri are all part of news reports that do not have any particular significance when viewed in isolation from social events and issues and can be considered the usual fare.

However, in view of the political sensitivity and the ambiguity that has surrounded various aspects of these events, the foreign media seems to have paid special attention to these reports and have resorted to propaganda and controversies on the subjects. The BBC and VOA have carried various reports in the past few days and have also conducted interviews with domestic correspondents and individuals who are considered to be advisers to these radios and who hold particular opinions. This is why they formulate analyses designed to make trouble and project specific policies which are detrimental to our society and generate doubts and ambiguities among the various levels of society.

The BBC and VOA have sought to project the impression that the arrest of Engineer 'Abdi and the summons to Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha were part of the government's efforts to close down the SALAM newspaper, which, according to them, was a mouthpiece of the rightist opposition. They strove to present interviews and discussions to prove that a campaign of censorship and restrictions against publications was in force, when this is not the real reason for these events.

If, prior to the propagation of such reports, the revolutionary prosecutor or any other judicial authority who had ordered the arrests would have issued a statement giving his reasons for such an action and had sent it to the press, there would have been no breeding ground for unrealistic or distorted debates. It is, of course, the right of the people to be informed of such reports.

In any case, the editor of a morning daily has been arrested, and, therefore, it is natural that if the correct and essential information is not provided to the people, others will provide them with fabricated reports. It would be most unrealistic to expect such reports not to be disseminated or to expect that the press will remain silent on such issues. What is important is that we have not yet gauged the importance of rapid and precise propagation of sensitive news. For this reason we encounter problems and ambiguities on each occasion, and we are instrumental in popularizing various rumors.

This state of affairs is not beneficial to anyone. The erroneous rumors, analyses, and beliefs that are being spread have made our people mistrustful of our news media and have encouraged them to rely more on foreign media. It is really regrettable that even now, when a few days have lapsed after the arrest of 'Abdi, no responsible official has presented any clarification on the subject. This merely fuels the uncertainty surrounding the event. We hope that these issues will serve as a reason for a serious reappraisal in our methods of news dissemination.

Pakistan

Moscow, Islamabad To Sign Nuclear Accord

BK1509123993 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 14 Sep 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Pakistan-Russia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement"]

[Text] Pakistan and Russia have decided to sign an agreement in nuclear cooperation for peaceful purposes, according to responsible sources. It has been learned that the governments of the two countries have already confirmed this agreement, under which the scientists of the two countries will enjoy the privilege of using each other's laboratories and will also be able to exchange experimental data, computer codes, scientific samples, and research publications. The agreement, the first of its kind between Pakistan and Russia, will undoubtedly help Pakistan in making progress in science and technology and in advancing its programs in different fields and acquiring modern knowledge with the help of research done by the Russians. After all, Russia is on par with the developed Western countries in many different fields of science and technology, including arms and space and nuclear technology.

In the past, Pakistan and Russia had differences over several political issues because of the foreign policy of the former Soviet Union. After the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, relations became further strained. But after the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the establishment of a new government and a new system in Russia, the basic cause of bilateral differences has been removed. On the other side, the United States has unilaterally imposed unjust economic and military restrictions on Pakistan, even though Islamabad has categorically stated that Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes. In spite of that, a hostile propaganda campaign is continuing against Pakistan. China has already signed an accord for nuclear cooperation with Pakistan, and the agreement reached with Russia proves that the two major and important countries consider Pakistan's nuclear program to be of a peaceful nature.

Drug Mafia Kidnapping of U.S. Diplomats, Citizens Feared

BK1609101793 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 15 Sep 93 pp 7, 8

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad—According to reliable sources, security arrangements for U.S. diplomats and citizens throughout the country have been stepped up in view of apprehensions of possible kidnappings by the drug mafia. Although no new travel advisory has been issued by the U.S. Government, the number of U.S. visitors to the North-West Frontier Province and other northern areas has dropped abnormally. Americans working in developmental projects and those attached to nongovernment organizations which provide for the welfare of Afghan refugees have restricted their activities. An eminent diplomat told the JANG correspondent in Islamabad that security arrangements for U.S. diplomats are satisfactory and that all diplomats are adhering to the agreed formula of self-protection. The sources said that the Americans engaged in anti-drug trafficking activities in Pakistan are taking extraordinary security precautions. Reliable sources disclosed that, despite arduous efforts, the big five of the 16 drug barons wanted by the United States have not been arrested so far. Some of them even maintain regular armies. The drug traffickers are so resourceful that they can do anything in the present situation, including kidnap U.S. diplomats and citizens. The five big fish among the 16 drug traffickers wanted by the United States include Haji Ayub Afridi, Rana Ashraf, Khushnud Butt, and Mahmud Ahmad [only four names as published]. All of these five alleged smugglers are continuing their underground operations.

The sources said that an important and sensitive organization has also expressed apprehension that the traffickers who are still at large might start kidnapping U.S. diplomats and citizens in a frenzied confusion. The alleged smuggler Rana Ashraf, who has not been apprehended, is reported to be a prominent figure of the Karachi Race Course and he has some pedigreed horses at his stable. A large number of criminal elements are on his payroll.

Responsible sources say that the Government of Pakistan has offered to provide every facility to all diplomats and foreigners in Pakistan. An official source said that extraordinary caution is being taken to deal with the situation in view of the incidents of kidnapping of foreigners during such operations in the past. Meanwhile, the Department of Tourism said that tourist arrival in the North-West Frontier Province and northern areas has dropped dropped after the launching of anti-drug operations.

Paper Views Proposed Kashmir Solution

BK1509121193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 15 Sep 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Saddar Qayyum is Right"]

[Text] The Azad Kashmir prime minister, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, has indicated in the course of a visit to the United States that the option of an independent or antonomous Kashmir could be considered. Which is to say that Pakistan would not hold the Kashmiri people strictly to the terms of the United Nations resolutions on the subject whereby the options would be limited to choosing between India and Pakistan. This position recognizes that the fundamental issue is the Kashmiri people's right of self-determination. On our part it implies deferring to their wish for independent status, if that indeed turns out to be the preferred option of the majority. To many in Pakistan, however, such a position on Kashmir spells betrayal. Kashmir has been at the heart of the intense antagonism between India and Pakistan. Hardly anyone in Pakistan doubts the legal and moral correctness of our case, and at the popular level there has been the long-standing expection that sooner or later Kashmir would become a part of Pakistan. No wonder then that any indication that we are willing to consider possibilities other than the preferred one of Kashmir coming to us is met with a storm of protest and villfication.

Pakistan, however, in more than one war that it has fought with India was unable to change the situation on the ground in Kashmir. Now the Kashmiris have risen themselves and with moral and political support from Pakistan have written a glorious chapter of resistance against the brutality and repression of the Indian forces. The issue now is what is the best possible bargain that can be secured for the Kashmiris who continue to bear the brunt of India's virtual reign of terror in the valley? The priority must be to put an end to the violence and to find a solution that enables the Kashmiris to exercise their right of self-determination. If that means independent Kashmir, so be it. For the alternative, whereby Kashmiris including innocent men, women and children, continue to suffer is even less acceptable. Let us be honest about this. Pakistan is not in a position to offer to the Kashmiris the kind of material assistance required to completely break the Indian hold. If there was any covert material help being provided to those struggling across the border it has been discontinued in view of threats from the US to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. The issue here is not whether it is fair but that such a decision would be endorsed by the international community, generally. Pakistan in that case would be hit hard economically and would be in even less of a position to influence the outcome on Kashmir. We should in the context of the shifting balance of international forces also keep in mind the recent Sino-Indian accord. For nearly three decades China viewed India and the Indo-Soviet nexas with hostility and suspicion. Some of this may well have been responsible for the particularly warm relations between Pakistan and China. We would do well to recognise that one of our closest friends in the region may not be as forthcoming as it has been, in the future. Our thinking on Kashmir now should partake of a stronger dose of realism and take due cognizance of such factors.

One Killed, 30 Injured in Blast in Faisalabad Mosque

BK1609082393 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 16 Sep 93

[Text] One person was killed and 30 others were injured in an explosion that took place in a mosque in Faisalabad this morning. The injured, three of them in critical condition, were rushed to hospital. The incident reportedly took place when the fajr [dawn] prayer was being offered. The victim, Mohammad Farooq, was a laborer. Police have registered a case against the unidentified killer. Investigations are continuing. No arrest has so far been made.